

Constitution

(revised as of 11/16/23)

Article I – NAME

Section 1. The Society shall be known as the “Belmont County Agricultural Society”.

Article II – PURPOSE

Section 1. The purpose of this Society shall be to promote and encourage agriculture, industry, schools, science, art and other interests of Belmont County, which the Board deems proper, and in the best interests of the community.

Article III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any Belmont County resident 18 years old or older may become a member of the Society by paying annually the membership fee fixed by the Board of Directors. Membership certificates shall entitle the member whom it is sold admission to the fair as the Board of Directors may determine and vote for directors at the annual election, provided the membership is purchased 15 days before the election will be able to vote. (As per the Red Book)

Section 2. No person shall pay for or secure more than one membership and that membership shall be for that person. No membership shall be issued to any entity other than a natural person.

Section 3. Membership tickets shall be placed on sale annually beginning Thursday during the preceding years’ county fair and shall remain on sale through Wednesday of the current year’s fair. Notice of days, hours when memberships can be purchased and the place where they may be purchased shall be announced in the annual premium list, our website and social media at least twice during the sale, once when they go on sale and again no less than seven or more than seven or more than twenty-one days before the sale is terminated.

Article IV – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The membership shall consist of 21 and no more than 24 elected members. In addition to the elected members, an employee of the Ohio State University Extension Service shall be Ex-Officio Member. All terms for directors shall be three (3) years with one third of the directors elected annually.

Section 2. Any vacancy on the Board caused by death, resignation, refusal to qualify, removal from county or other cause may be filled by the Board until the next annual election, when a Director shall be elected for the unexpired term. Those wishing to be appointed to the BOARD must attend at least three meetings or two meetings with participation in two planned events, submit a letter of intent, and address the Board of Directors as to why they feel they would be an asset to the BOARD.

Section 2a. To protect and ensure the safety of children participants, all current directors (board members) will have a criminal background check undertaken by March 1, 2019 with the results to be submitted to the Belmont County Agricultural Society Secretary. After his or her initial background check, it will only need redone if deemed necessary. All results to be submitted to Belmont County Agricultural Society Secretary. All candidates for a director (board) shall have a background check undertaken and the results submitted to Belmont County Agricultural Society before he or she is able to assume their position. Disqualifying criminal convictions are those listed in Ohio Revised Code Section 109.572(a) (1). Any director found to have been convicted of any of these criminal offenses shall be removed from their position. Any successful candidate for a director's position found to have been convicted of any of these criminal offenses will not be permitted to assume their position. Additionally, those charged with one of these offenses but not convicted, shall be required to abstain from any and all Belmont County Agricultural Society functions and activities until the matter has concluded. However, should the candidate or director petition the BOARD that extenuating circumstances exist in regards to the criminal conviction or charge, the BOARD with a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote in favor may permit the director to remain in his or her position.

Section 3. Any officer or director absent for three consecutive regular meeting may have his office declared vacant by the majority vote of the Board of Directors. All Board Members should attend at least six out of our twelve scheduled meetings, extra activities participated in will be considered in the determination of membership. Any officer or director who fails to participate in twenty-five percent of additional activities may have his/her office declared vacant by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Any director who openly and actively works in a manner detrimental to the best interests of the Society as a whole may be removed from the Board of Directors by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. The director removed from the board by a majority vote of the Board of Directors will not be eligible to seek another term on the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Directors serving on the board more than nine years or three consecutive terms will receive a lifetime admission pass for the Belmont County Fair, upon retirement.

Article V – ELECTION

Section 1. The annual election of the Board of Directors shall be held on the Belmont County Fairgrounds on Saturday during the Belmont County Fair from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in the Administrative Office Board Room.

Section 2. The President of the Society shall appoint 3 judges and 2 clerks who are members of the Society, but not candidates for election, to conduct the election of directors for the Society according to the Laws and Rules set forth by the Ohio Department of Agriculture, and to declare the results thereof.

Section 3. The Annual election shall be by ballot. Ballots must be marked opposite the name of each candidate voted for.

Section 4. Only members of the Society, currently residents of Belmont County and with paid memberships, may vote at the annual election.

Section 5. Society members desiring to run as a candidate for office of director must attend at least three regular meetings of the Board of Directors during the current year. Society members must declare their candidacy for the office of director by filling with the secretary a petition signed by ten or more members of the society who are residents of Belmont County, Ohio, at least seven days before the annual election of directors is held. The official ballot shall contain only the names of the candidates who have signed the necessary petition and who have met the filling requirements to be eligible for the election as a director. Blank petitions shall be furnished by the Society and shall be obtained from the Secretary of the Society. Petition must be completely filled out in its entirety, prior to the collection of signatures.

Section 6. Notice of Election, the filling requirements for the office of director and information as to how these may be fulfilled shall be announced in the annual premium list and posted on our website and social media, no earlier than six weeks and no later than two weeks before the election.

Section 7. The term of office of the retiring Directors shall expire and that of the Directors-elect begin at the October meeting of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI – ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The annual meeting of the members of the Society shall be held at the Administrative Office Board Room St. Clairsville, Ohio, at the time fixed by the Board of Directors, which the date shall not be later than November 30.

Section 2. At the annual meeting, the officers and directors of the Society shall make reports to the membership of the Society concerning the past fair and make recommendations for the betterment of future fairs. The members shall be given the opportunity to make suggestions and recommendations for the improvement of the Society and its fair. Such other business may be presented as may be prescribed by the constitution or as may be deemed proper by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII – ORGANIZATION AND MEETINGS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall meet immediately following the annual meeting and elect by ballot a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer to serve one-year terms (beginning December 1 through November 30 each year) until their successors are elected and qualified. Add assistant secretary and assistant treasurer.

Section 2. All officers shall be members of the Society. The President and Vice President shall be directors. The Secretary and Treasurer may or may not be directors.

Section 3. Before the election of officers is conducted, the newly elected directors shall qualify by taking the following affirmation before a notary public: “I do solemnly affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, laws of Ohio and regulations of the Department of Agriculture of Ohio pertaining to Agricultural Societies and to the best of my ability perform the duties of Director of the Belmont County Agricultural Society, so help me God.”

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws may be proposed by: [A] A majority of the vote of Directors at a scheduled meeting voting in favor of placing amendment on the ballot or [B] Filing a petition with the Secretary of the Society at least fourteen days prior to the annual meeting of the members of the Society. Said petition must be set forth a proposed amendment and be signed by not less than twenty-five members of the Society.

Section 2. If an amendment is proposed, it shall be submitted to the membership of the Society at the annual meeting of the membership of the Society.

Section 3. When more than one amendment shall be submitted at the same time, they shall be so submitted as to enable the members to vote on each amendment separately. Amendments shall be published on our website and social media not less than three or more than ten days before they are to be voted on.

Section 4. If the majority of the membership voting on the proposed amendment shall adopt such amendment; it shall become a part of the Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE IX – COMPENSATION

Section 1. The compensation of Board members shall be fixed by the Board in accordance with the rules of the Department of Agriculture.

ARTICLE X – FAIR DATES

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall set the dates for the annual exposition of the Society, subject to approval of the Director of Agriculture.

ARTICLE XI – ADOPTION OF RULES

Section 1. The rules governing the operation of County Agricultural Societies by the Ohio Department of Agriculture are hereby adopted.

By-Laws

ARTICLE I – QUORUM

Section 1. A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE II – MEETINGS

Section 1. The regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m., except for November and December when they will be the third Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Section 2. Meetings may be held, when necessary, at the call of the President or at the call of the Secretary upon the written request to the Secretary by not less than nine members of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. All members of the Board of Directors shall be notified of meetings at least two days before the meeting. The notice need not specify the purpose of the meeting.

Section 4. All meetings of the Board of Directors shall be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order.

ARTICLE III – ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section 1. 1.Call to order,2. Pledge of Allegiance,3. Roll Call,4. Reading and Approval of Minutes,5. Treasure’s Report,6. Accounts Payable, 7. Report of Committees, 8. Report of Officers, 9. Unfinished Business, 10. New Business, 11. Appointments, 12. Adjournment.

Section 2. The order of business may be temporarily suspended at any meeting upon a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Board, to appoint committees, and to perform such duties as are determined by the Board.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the Vice President to assume all duties of the President in the event of his absence or vacancy of the office and to perform such duties as are determined by the Board.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to:[1] Keep a list of all members of the Society; [2] Keep accurately a record of all proceedings of the Society and the Board;[3] Notify all members of the Board of the time and place of all meetings;[4] Give all members of the Society notice of the time and place of the annual election of the Board of Directors and the annual meeting of the membership;[5] Keep strict account of all moneys that may come into his hands and pay the same over to the Treasurer and take receipt therefore;[6] Make out the annual report to the Ohio Department of Agriculture and [7] Perform such duties as are determined by the Board.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to: [1] receive all moneys and give a receipt for the same as to amounts and sources from which it came;[2] Keep a

correct itemized account of all receipts and expenditures of money;[3] Countersign with the President, Vice-President or Secretary checks for payment of funds by the Society;[4] Verify that Treasurer's Books are reconciled with the Bank statement monthly;[5] Provide monthly financial statement for each Board meeting;[6] Assist Secretary with annual report to the Ohio Department of Agriculture; and [7] Perform such other duties as are determined by the Board.

ARTICLE V – RULES

Section 1. The Board of Directors may enact Rules and regulations for conducting the business of the Society as long as they do not conflict with their Constitution or By-Laws, regulations of the Department of Agriculture, or laws of the State of Ohio.

Section 2. The executive Board will consist of the president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. In addition, one director from each term limit will be elected to serve on the Executive Board. The Executive Board serves as a committee within the organization. The Executive Board has the authority to make decisions and ensure that those decisions are carried out at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI – AUXILIARY BOARD

Section 1. The Belmont County Agricultural Society Auxiliary Board will consist of volunteers who have completed a successful background check; are recommended by a current board member and hold a current membership. They may serve on committees but no voting privileges granted.