



Wolverine Morgan Horse Association

# BYLAWS

*(Enacted April 1, 2007, Amended December 2, 2007)*

## ARTICLE I GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 1.1 **Name and Purpose:** The name of the Association is the Wolverine Morgan Horse Association, hereinafter referred to as the WMHA, and it is organized to promote, advertise, and otherwise support the versatility of the Morgan horse; to insist the breed be kept as correct, sound, and genetically pure as possible; and, further, to advocate the correct use, good health, and maintenance of all horses, regardless of type or breed.

## ARTICLE II DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 **Individual:** Consists of one (1) person.
- 2.2 **Family:** Consists of one (1) or two (2) Adult Members and any children under the age of 19 residing in the same household on a regular basis.
- 2.3 **Adult Member:** Any paid WMHA member 19 years of age or older. Only Adult Members shall have voting privileges.
- 2.4 **Quorum:** Not less than five (5) Adult Members in good standing with the WMHA.
- 2.5 **Meetings:** General Membership meetings, which operate utilizing Roberts Rules of Order.

## ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 **Membership:** Each applicant for membership shall complete and sign an application form furnished annually by the WMHA. All completed applications for membership shall be accepted and membership shall be effective on receipt of the payment of dues. Members must agree to uphold the tenets of the WMHA regardless of their personal breed interests or affiliations. WMHA's General Membership shall manage the affairs of the WMHA. Members are, therefore, strongly encouraged to attend as many meetings as possible.
- 3.2 **Term:** All memberships shall be valid for a period of one calendar year (January 1 to December 31 of the same year, or the membership acceptance date to December 31 of the same year).
- 3.3 **Dues:** Dues shall be \$20.00 per year/per Family and \$15.00 per year/per Individual 19 & over, and \$10 per year/per individual 18 & under, effective beginning the 2008 Membership Year. Board Member dues shall be waived the year following their term(s).
- 3.4 **Rights and Obligations of Members:** All Members in good standing with the WMHA shall have full privileges of the WMHA.
- 3.5 **Voting:** A quorum, as defined in Article II.2.4, shall be necessary to vote on issues, matters and resolutions brought before the Membership at a General Membership meeting. A simple majority vote shall be required for passage of a motion for adoption, amendment or rescission of such matters. All Adult Members in good standing and who have attained at least 19 years of age as of January 1 of the current year shall be entitled to one (1) vote on each matter presented to the General Membership.
- 3.6 **Meetings:** There shall be no less than seven (7) General Membership meetings per calendar year beginning in September and ending in May. Meetings shall be held the first Sunday of each month. The minutes of each meeting shall be sent via USPS or electronic mail (Member option) to the General Membership.

## ARTICLE IV OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS, AND HIGH POINT CHAIRPERSON

- 4.1 **Officers:** President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Officers must be Members in good standing with the WMHA. All Officer positions are elected positions. The general membership may vote to remove and replace officers that fail to perform their duties as described below.
- 4.1.1 **President:** The President shall preside at all Membership meetings and is authorized to sign legal documents on behalf of the WMHA. President is an ex-officio member of all Committees. The president shall have the right to vote only as a tiebreaker.
- 4.1.2 **Vice President:** During such times as the President is absent or the Office of President is vacant, the Vice President shall be temporarily designated to perform the duties and assume the powers of the Office of President. The Vice President is responsible for the custody and care of all WMHA property. The Vice President shall have the right to vote.
- 4.1.3 **Secretary:** The Secretary is responsible for taking and distributing accurate meeting minutes to the General Membership, meeting notices, officer nomination forms, election ballots, and membership applications. The Secretary shall oversee the preparation and mailing of the monthly newsletter and ensure that it is mailed in a timely manner each month, and shall oversee the maintenance and content of the WMHA website. The Secretary is responsible for the maintenance of membership lists and the custody and care of WMHA files and records. The Secretary has the right to vote.
- 4.1.4 **Treasurer:** The Treasurer will assume the custody and care of all WMHA funds. The duties of the Treasurer include the collection and bank deposit of incoming WMHA funds and the maintenance of accurate financial records. The Treasurer will prepare and issue a monthly Treasurer's Report that includes 1) the previous month's ending balances for all checking and savings accounts 2) a list of all credits and debits to and from all checking and savings accounts with explanations of what the credit and debit is for, if unclear. The Treasurer has the right to vote.
- 4.1.5 **High Point Chairperson:** The High Point Chairperson position is a voluntary position (not an elected position). The High Point Chairperson receives and tabulates all points earned by the General Membership at qualified shows and is responsible for facilitating a committee to acquire and disburse awards as appropriate at the Year-end High Point Banquet.
- 4.1.6 **WMHA Historian:** The WMHA Historian position is a position designated by the President. The WMHA Historian shall serve until resignation or replacement by the President. The duties of the WMHA Historian shall include, but are not limited to, the organization of all historical WMHA information and the organization of the collection. Additionally, the WMHA Historian shall create and maintain the collection in a form that can be accessed and acquired by the General Membership and other interested parties. The acquisition of single, personal copies of the collection will require the payment of a fee to be set by vote of the General Membership. The fee will cover the cost of production and/or publication and will provide a small margin of profit. The collection shall include membership lists, show results, photographs, documents of historical significance to the operation of the WMHA, lists of present and past officers, and other items deemed to be of historical value.
- 4.2 **Board:** The Board shall consist of the Officers of the WMHA and two (2) Adult Members in good standing, elected by the General Membership and serving staggered two-year terms. Officers and Board Members who resign before expiration of their terms shall be replaced by:
- 4.2.1 Appointment of the person who obtained the second largest vote for the position in the most recent election with the exception of the office of President. In this case, the Vice President will fill the position of President.

- 4.2.2. In the event that application of Article IV.4.2.1 does not result in filling a vacancy among WMHA Officers or Board Members, appointment will then be made by vote of a quorum at a General Membership meeting for candidates nominated before or at that meeting.
- 4.2.3 Board Responsibilities: The Board shall represent the general interests of the WMHA General Membership. Decisions of the Board shall be limited to financial emergencies when time prevents gathering the General Membership for a meeting.
- 4.3 **Election and Terms:** The offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer will be filled annually (for a term of one calendar year) using the following procedure:
- 4.3.1 The Secretary will annually oversee the distribution of Officer Nomination Forms to the General Membership by USPS mail or electronic mail no later than August 10 of the current year. Completed forms shall be returned no later than August 30 of the current year. Nominees may accept nominations for one office only.
- 4.3.2 Nominations will be opened at the September meeting and will be referred to the Nominating Committee to be placed on a ballot. The ballots shall be distributed to qualified voters using USPS mail no later than September 30 of the current year.
- 4.3.3 The ballot, a stamped, return address envelope, and a list of instructions directing the voter to choose or write in one candidate's name per office will be distributed via USPS mail to all WMHA Adult Members in good standing. The voter will be directed to place the unsigned ballot in the stamped, return address envelope and to remit the ballot by mail, postmarked no later than November 1, or to hand carry the ballot to the November meeting.
- 4.3.4 All ballots received will be removed from their respective envelopes at the November meeting after the voter's name on the envelope has been checked against the membership list.
- 4.3.5 The unsigned ballots will then be placed in a container and the return envelopes will be destroyed.
- 4.3.6 Ballots will be counted and results tabulated by the Election Committee and two (2) volunteers selected from the meeting attendees. The results will be announced and then the ballots will be destroyed.
- 4.3.7 Election results will be reported in the minutes of the November meeting.
- 4.4 **Officer Requirements:** A Member being considered for any office must be a paid Member in good standing with the WMHA and must have attended as many meeting as possible. President and Secretary must be Members of the American Morgan Horse Association. (If a Member would not normally be a Member of the American Morgan Horse Association, WMHA will pay the dues).
- 4.5 **Resignation and Removal:** A Board Member may resign at any time by giving written notice to the President. The WMHA reserves the right to restrict, deny, or revoke membership to any individual who is not in compliance with these Bylaws by the vote of a majority of all Members present at any meeting, called for that purpose. The Vice President will accept resignation of the President.

## ARTICLE V GENERAL

- 5.1 **Committees:** Committee members are to be appointed by the President. Any current General Member may attend any committee meeting and may request of the President to be appointed to any committee. Committees may delegate work as necessary, but are ultimately responsible to make sure the work gets done and make necessary reports to the General Membership.
- 5.2 **Horse Show:** The WMHA shall attempt to hold no less than two (2) show days per year as a fundraiser. The money earned from any show(s) shall be used, in part, to facilitate the Year-end High Point Award Program.

- 5.3 **Funds:** The WMHA funds shall be deposited into both a checking and a savings account at a financial institution. Two (2) signatures will be required when signing checks. One (1) signature will be that of the Treasurer; the second signature will be another acceptable Member in good standing.
- 5.4 **Disposition of Funds:** In the unlikely event the WMHA should disband, the remaining funds will be distributed as follows: 50 percent shall go to the American Morgan Horse Association (50 percent of which shall be marked for the Youth Group, 50 percent to the General Fund); the remaining 50 percent shall be evenly divided between The National Museum of the Morgan Horse (Shelburne, VT) and Horse Haven (Howell, MI).
- 5.5 **Bylaws:** Any recommendations for changes in the Bylaws shall be referred to the Bylaw Committee. The Bylaw Committee will publish proposed changes in the next newsletter. At the next General Membership meeting, the proposed changes will be presented for discussion. Revisions, amendments and general changes in the Bylaws may be made only by a majority vote of the General Membership in attendance at a scheduled General Membership meeting. The Bylaw Committee will review bylaws on an annual basis.