

BY LAWS OF THE CONNECTICUT MORGAN HORSE ASSOCIATION INC.

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this Corporation is the Connecticut Morgan Horse Association, Inc. hereafter referred to as CMHA.

ARTICLE II - MISSION

The purpose of this Corporation is to promote the Morgan breed, preserve its history, market its versatility and enhance its profile statewide. The organization is committed to appealing to all levels of involvement for its members and all levels of Morgan performance. CMHA promotes educational activities, programs and events designed to enhance Morgan horse education, use and appreciation. In particular, youth involvement is stressed at all levels. By encouraging social activities and sharing mutual interests in the Morgan horse, its members gain a common bond that helps the organization accomplish its goals.

Diversity and Inclusion are fundamental to the Connecticut Morgan Horse Association's vision: To bring the joy of horse sports to as many people as possible. We understand the need to achieve increased diversity and that the growth and success of CMHA and the Morgan breed depend on the inclusion of all people. Therefore, we are committed to providing access and opportunity for people of color, the LGBTQ+ community, veterans and active military personnel, people with disabilities, and those of all ages, religions, ancestries, genders and gender identities, and economic status to harness the synergy of diverse talents.

This corporation is organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the organization, shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal Income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Upon winding up and dissolution of the corporation after paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligations of the corporation, the remaining assets shall be distributed to a non-profit fund, foundation, or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, and or scientific purposes and which has established its tax-exempt status under section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

Any person, whether or not a resident of Connecticut desirous of becoming a member of CMHA, may apply in writing to the Membership Chairperson. Such application shall be accompanied by payment of one year's dues. Membership shall become effective upon receipt of the membership application and payment of dues that expire on October 31st of the current fiscal year.

Section 2

Annual dues shall be determined at the Annual Meeting for the fiscal year beginning November 1st or as directed by the Board of Directors.

Section 3

There shall be three types of membership: Active, Honorary and Life. Active and Life Members

shall be entitled to vote at meetings of the Club and be elected to office.

A) Active membership shall include:

1. Individual - entitled to vote;
2. Family (includes an individual or partners, and children under 21) entitled to two (2) votes per family and;
3. Youth (under 21 years of age) – Youth age 18 and older are entitled to vote.

B) Honorary Membership shall be exempt from payment of dues. Honorary Members shall be individuals who have distinguished themselves by virtue of their interest in the Morgan Horse. Honorary Membership is attained for a period of two years upon the proposal by the Board of Directors and approval by a majority vote of the Club Members present at any meeting.

C) Life Membership shall be exempt from payment of dues and is attained by serving as President of the Club.

Section 4

CMHA dues are due on or before October 31st. Any member whose dues are not paid by October 31st shall be judged delinquent. The Membership Chairperson shall cause a notice of unpaid dues, containing a reminder of the membership year, to be sent to any member who shall be in default in the payment of dues for a period of two months after such dues have been judged to be delinquent. If such member's dues shall remain unpaid thereafter, such membership shall terminate on the 15th day after the mailing of such notice.

Section 5

In order to qualify for year-end awards, membership current prior to the commencing of an approved show or event.

Section 6

All CMHA officers and directors, as well as anyone wishing to serve on any committee of the club, are required to maintain current membership with CMHA.

ARTICLE IV - BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Section 1

Officers of CMHA shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

Section 2

The Board of Directors of CMHA shall consist of the Officers, the Immediate Past President and 4-8 Directors.

Section 3

The Officers shall constitute the Executive Committee, which shall manage the business and affairs of CMHA. The Executive Committee may exercise all the powers and do all the things which may be exercised by, or done by, CMHA subject to the provisions of the Law, the Statutes of the State of Connecticut, the Certificate of Incorporation, these By Laws, or any vote of the members to the contrary.

Section 4

The President, whose term of office shall be for two (2) years, shall preside at all the meetings of CMHA and act as Chairperson of the Executive Committee. The President shall appoint all committees, call special meetings of CMHA and of the Executive Committee, and perform all duties usually assigned to the office. The President will execute all legal documents upon the majority vote of the Executive Committee. Election to this office will be made at the regular Annual Meeting of CMHA held in opposite years of the election of secretary and treasurer.

Section 5

The Vice President, whose term of office shall be two (2) years, shall, in the absence or inability of the President, perform all the duties of the President. Election to this office will be made at the regular Annual Meeting of CMHA held in opposite years of the election of secretary and treasurer.

Section 6

The Secretary, whose term of office shall be two (2) years, shall conduct all general correspondence of CMHA; shall send all notices of meetings of CMHA and the Executive Committee; shall record accurate minutes of such meetings upon the books and records of CMHA; and shall retain copies of all pertinent and relevant records and documents obtained from Committee members, Directors and Officers (see Article VI, Section 8). Election to this office will be made at the regular Annual Meeting of CMHA held in opposite years of the election of president and vice president.

Section 7

The Treasurer, whose term of office shall be two (2) years, shall receive and keep records of all monies, debts, and other monetary obligations of CMHA; shall have the authority to sign checks and make other disbursements for the purpose of meeting the approved financial obligations of CMHA; shall report and enter a complete financial report to the members at the Annual Meeting; shall collect all monies due CMHA; and have such other powers and perform such other duties as the Executive Committee shall, from time to time, designate. The Executive Committee may require the Treasurer to give such bonds for faithful performance of his or her duties as they may from time to time determine. Election to this office will be made at the regular Annual Meeting of CMHA held in opposite years of the election of president and vice president.

Section 8

Half of the Directors will be elected in even numbered year and the other half in odd numbered years.

Section 9

All expenditures of the Club must be Board approved, either by individual vote or as part of an approved budget. If an Officer, Director or other Board or Committee member of the Club enters into a contract or other obligation on the Club's behalf that has not been previously approved by the Board of Directors or as part of an approved budget, that debt will become the sole financial responsibility of the Officer, Director or other Board or Committee member making that obligation.

ARTICLE V - COMMITTEES

Section 1

The President shall appoint all committees necessary to carry on the business of CMHA except where otherwise noted. All committees will be reviewed by the Board of Directors.

Section 2

The Nominating Committee: Shall be appointed by March 1st and shall consist of three (3) active members of CMHA to be appointed a two (2) year period. It shall be the duty of this Committee to nominate two (2) members for each vacancy including Officer and Director openings to be voted on at the Annual Meeting of CMHA. If only one (1) candidate is available for a position, the Committee may nominate only one (1) candidate.

Section 3

Membership Committee: A Membership Chairperson shall be appointed by the President.

Section 4

Any Committee must seek approval of the Board as to any expenditure that exceeds their total approved budget by one hundred (\$100.00) dollars or more. For CMOHS, any expenditure that exceeds their total approved budget by one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars or more must be approved by the Board.

Section 5

Budget Committee: The Treasurer shall chair the Budget Committee. Said Committee to be formed each year and shall be composed of the President and two (2) members appointed by the membership. All Committees shall submit an annual budget proposal to the Budget Committee no later than November 1st of the fiscal year. This Committee shall submit a recommended budget to the Board of Directors at the November Board Meeting. The final budget will be available to the membership.

Section 6

Connecticut Morgan Open Horse Show Committee: The Connecticut Morgan Open Horse Show (CMOHS) committee chairperson is appointed by the president; and coordinates meetings and communicates updates to the president and board of directors. There can be co-chairpersons or a single chairperson. If there are co-chairs, one will be designated to report to the board. There are formal policies with timelines and expected deliverables for the horse show committee to fulfill.

Section 7

Committee & Club Records: Each Executive Committee member and Committee Chairperson or committee member shall retain the records of their position/committee in accordance with the club's record retention policy. Records include notes, procedures, online accounts, and official documents related to the position/committee. The records of each outgoing Executive Committee member or Committee Chairperson shall be passed onto the incoming Executive Committee member or Committee Chairperson along with a current job description (see also Article VI, Section 8).

ARTICLE VI - ELECTIONS

Section 1

Officers shall be elected every two (2) years as outlined in Article IV, Section 4 through 8.

Section 2

Two (2) - four (4) Directors shall be elected every two (2) years depending on the number of Directors on the slate for the given year. In the event that the outgoing President declines to serve as a Director, the Nominating Committee shall select an additional member to fill the slate.

Section 3

At least sixty (60) days before the Annual Meeting, the Nominating Committee shall present to the Board of Directors a list of names being considered for vacancies. The Nominating Committee shall make the final decision on the slate and present it to the Secretary who shall mail it to the membership at least thirty (30) days before the Annual Meeting.

Section 4

Following the report of the Nominating Committee, further nomination from the floor will be accepted.

Section 5

The Treasurer and Membership Chairperson shall confirm the eligibility of the candidates by verifying that they are active or life members of the club.

Section 6

Elections shall be by closed ballot of those present or by proxy of those absent. The ballots shall be counted by the Secretary and verified by the Nominating Committee. The candidate or candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected. In the case of a tie, a second ballot shall be cast eliminating the candidate(s) who did not tie. If a second tie results, the candidate(s) having the longest period of membership in CMHA shall be elected.

Section 7

If a vacancy should occur on the Board of Directors during a member's term, this vacancy can be filled by the Board of Directors. Such appointment shall continue until the end of that position's term.

Section 8

Passage of all pertinent and relevant records and documents from outgoing Committee members, Directors and Officers shall be kept on file in a designated place of occupancy with the Secretary where they will be available to the newly elected Committee members, Directors and Officers in order to assist them in the performance of their duties.

ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS

Section 1

There shall be an Annual Meeting of the members at such time and place as shall be designated by the Board of Directors and specified in the notice of meeting. The Annual Meeting shall include budget approvals, financial review results and elections of Officers and Directors. Special meetings may be held from time to time upon the call of the President or as provided by law.

Section 2

Meetings of the Executive Committee may be held from time to time upon call by the President or by request of five (5) or more members of the Committee. All members of the Committee shall be notified in writing, by telephone or in person at least twenty-four (24) hours before the time of the meeting. Acknowledgement by all members of the Committee is required so that it is known that all members of the Committee are aware there is a special meeting.

Section 3

All notices of meetings shall include the date, time, place or meeting link, and agenda.

Section 4

Order of business shall be: Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, report of the Secretary, report of the Treasurer, reports of standing committees, reading of communications, unfinished business, election and installations of Officers, new business, open discussions, and adjournment.

Section 5

A quorum of the Executive Committee, at a meeting of that body, shall consist of three (3) voting members of that committee. A quorum of the board of directors shall consist of six (6) voting members. A quorum of the members at a meeting of the members shall consist of ten (10) percent of the membership present and voting in person.

Section 6

Officers and members of the Board of Directors missing more than three (3) Executive Committee meetings held during CMHA's fiscal year shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors and face possible expulsion. A member facing expulsion may appeal his/her case to the Executive Committee for review.

Section 7

All members of the Corporation shall be furnished electronically with:

1. An up-to-date copy of the By Laws upon joining CMHA and whenever the By Laws are completely revised and a new printing is ordered by the Board of Directors.
2. A copy of the minutes of the meeting of the general membership, if requested in writing.

Section 8

A copy of the list of members, together with a copy of the annual fiscal statement of CMHA and a copy of the latest annual financial statement of the results of any fiscal function shall be made available for inspection by any member at each Board of Directors meeting as well as at the Annual Meeting of the members. In addition thereto, copies of any of the above shall be furnished to a member upon request in writing upon the condition that such member reimburse the CMHA for all reasonable expenses incurred in providing such material.

ARTICLE VIII – FINANCIAL REVIEWS

Section 1

The books of account of the Treasurer shall be reviewed annually, or as otherwise directed by the Board of Directors, and any members that submit a request to the Board of Directors. The results of this review shall be available upon request.

ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS

Section 1

Any of the By Laws may be amended, repealed or changed by a quorum vote of the members present and voting at any Annual Meeting of CMHA. In the notice of the meeting to the members, the proposed amendment, repeal or change must be clearly stated.

Revised —March 9th, 2022