

Proposed Amendments
Constitution Stark County Agricultural Society

Article I - Title

This society shall be known as the Stark County Agricultural Society.

Article II – Mission Statement

To improve, promote and preserve the public welfare through the understanding of agriculture, horticulture, domestic art and science, general community betterment together with all other industrial, commercial and educational interests of the County of Stark and the State of Ohio. It is also, the purpose of the Stark County Agricultural Society to serve and benefit the citizens of Stark County, the surrounding counties and the State of Ohio, by planning, organizing and operating the Stark County Fair, as well as carrying out the other purposes stated herein, all of which promote and serve the vital industry of agriculture in Ohio.

Article III – Membership

SEC. 1. Any person, 18 years ~~of age~~ or older and a resident of Stark County, may become a member of ~~the this~~ society by paying annually the ~~membership~~ sum fixed by board of directors. Memberships are on sale two weeks before the first of the New Year and until the closing of the first day of fair.

Memberships are permitted to be sold during normal business hours at the fair office January – August and posted on website and office during other days when society would have office open.

SEC. 2. Memberships will be issued only in the name of an individual person. Memberships shall not be issued to a person trying to purchase for partnerships, corporations, organizations, or firms. Any person purchasing membership will be requested to provide proof of identification for the membership to be issued. No person shall be permitted to purchase membership for anyone other than themselves.

~~SEC. 2. No membership certificate shall be issued to corporations, organizations, partnerships, or firms. All membership certificates shall be issued in the name of an individual who has paid the required membership fee and only those persons whose names appear upon the membership certificate shall have a right to vote at the annual meeting of the Society or hold office. No person shall be allowed to purchase memberships for anyone other than themselves and members of their immediate family, except it be to make entries for some other person. Memberships may be purchased in the Society office on the Fairground, Canton, Monday through Friday.~~

SEC. 3. Membership certificated issued by the society shall bear:

- a. The date, day and year membership begins
- b. Term of membership
- c. Name of the society
- d. A space for signature of purchaser of said membership
- e. Consecutive numbering

~~SEC. 3. Any former Board Member having served three or more terms on the Board of Directors shall be considered an honorary member of the Board without voting power and shall receive a free pass to the annual fair.~~

~~Sec. 4. The Fair Board Member has no authority except when sitting as a member of the board. They should refrain from discussing confidential matters with anyone not in a responsible position. They will be equally in error if they compromise the board of fair officials by conversation about matters best kept as matter of board record.~~

Article IV - Board of Directors

SEC. 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of 22 members; at present, fifteen township, two cities and five at large members. ~~one from each Township, also Canton Massillon and At Large Members.~~

SEC. 2. The Directors shall be elected for a term of three years and so arranged that one-third of the members be elected each year.

~~SEC. 3. The Director of the Society have no authority except sitting as a member of the board. They should refrain from discussing confidential matters with anyone not in a responsible position. They will be equally in error if they compromise the board of fair officials by conversation about matters best kept as a matter of the board record.~~

Article V - Elections

~~SEC. 1. The election of directors shall be by ballot, at the society office on the fairgrounds, on the first Friday of November each year. Time of elections will be 2:30 PM to 7:30 PM.~~

~~SEC. 1. The annual election of Directors of the Society shall be by ballot, held in Society's office on Fairgrounds on the first Friday of November each year from 1:30pm to 6:30pm. Ballots must be marked with an "X" or "✓" opposite the name of each candidate voted for, otherwise the name will not be counted, unless the intent is very clear. Date, location, time of election must be in Fairbook, on back of membership and posted in Fair office.~~

SEC. 2. The President of the Board of Directors will appoint three judges and two clerks to manage the annual election. The judges and clerks will remain impartial and avoid conflicts of

interest. Appointed judges and clerks cannot run for a position up for election. Appointed judges and clerks can be any member of the society, in good standing, and hold a current membership.

~~SEC. 2. Ballots cannot be taken out of the room for distribution or marking. The voter shall procure ballots from the Election Board and remain in the room for marking and voting. Any information needed, shall be given by the judges. No soliciting of votes will be allowed in the voting room.~~

SEC. 3. Ballots must be marked clearly to be counted. If the intent of a marked ballot is unclear, the intent will be determined by a majority vote of the three appointed judges. If the intent cannot be determined, the race in question will not be counted. Any other race on the ballot where the intent is clear will be counted. Ballots cannot be taken from the voting room. No proxy, absentee, or mail in ballots will be permitted.

SEC. 4. Only members of the Society 18 years of age or older & residents of Stark County, can vote or hold office.

~~SEC. 4. The annual election of the Society shall be held by three judges and two clerks appointed by the President.~~

SEC. 5. Candidates for Director of the Society must be a member in good standing of the Society for at least two of the last three years prior to the election and must declare their candidacy of Director of the Fair Board of Directors by filing with the secretary of the society a petition of candidacy at least 30 days before the annual election of Directors.

Petitions of candidacy will be provided by the Society and can be requested from Secretary of the Society, or their designee. Petitions may be requested starting the first day of the annual fair.

The petition of candidacy must list the specific seat the being sought. The petition must contain a minimum of 25 signatures of current society members.

The Society will provide and post a current list of members of the Society upon the close of membership.

The Society will determine the validity and sufficiency of the file petition of candidacy.

The Society will advertise the annual election on the Society's website, and post in the office at least three weeks before the date of the election.

~~SEC. 5. Candidates for Directors of the Society must be members of the Society, and must declare their candidacy for the office of a Director of the Fair Board of Directors by filing with the Secretary of the Stark County Agricultural Society at least (30) days before the annual election of directors is held. In order for a person to run for the position of Director for the Stark County Agricultural Society, that member must have been a member in good standing of the~~

~~Society for at least 2 of the 3 years prior to the election, including the calendar year of the election. To become a candidate for election to the Board of Directors, the potential candidate must have a minimum of twenty-five (25) member signatures on the nomination petition. Only regularly nominated candidates who have met the filing requirements will be eligible for election as director. The Secretary shall give three week notice of said election in at least two newspapers of general circulation.~~

SEC. 6. Any vacancy, caused by death, resignation, refusal to qualify, open seat, removal from township or city ~~or causes~~, absence from three meetings ~~unless due to absence from the County, illness of the Director or member of his or her family~~, unless excused absent is approved, may be deemed grounds for ~~seat to be~~ declaring ~~his or her place on the Board~~ the seat vacant.

~~If a seat is declared vacant, the Director may respond to this declaration, in writing, within ten days of the declaration. The Board of Directors will vote upon the final declaration of vacancy.~~

~~Position~~ A Director can be appointed ~~with~~ as a member at large until the next annual election, when a director shall be elected according to Article IV, Sec. 1 for the unexpired term.

~~If a position (seat) remains vacant, after 3 years, for three years the seat will it becomes become~~ an "At- Large" position.

~~If a township or city seat is currently "At-Large" and two members from the At-Large township/city wish to run for that seat then the winner will be the representative of the that township/city and that position is no longer "At-Large".~~

SEC.7. ~~The terms of office of the retiring Directors shall expire and that of the Directors, elect shall begin on the first Saturday, following the first Friday of November of each year, or until their successors are qualified.~~ Directors elected at the annual election term of office shall begin the day following the annual election.

Article VI - Organization and Meeting

SEC. 1. The board of directors shall meeting annually on the first Saturday following the first Friday of November of each year, and elect a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Superintendent of Police, Superintendent of Gates, Superintendent of Parking, and other officers as ~~it the board may~~ deem proper to serve one year ~~or until their successors are elected and qualified~~. The Secretary shall be a hired position with contract to be reviewed each year.

SEC.2. All officers shall be elected from the membership of the Board, except the Secretary, Treasurer and Superintendent of Police ~~Chief of Police, and any other official deemed necessary who may or may not be~~ which may be hired or appointed from those who are not members of the Board.

SEC. 3. Before election of officers, the newly elected Director shall ~~qualify by taking the following be administered~~ the oath (or affirmation) before a competent authority, Notary Public, Judge, or Elected Official within the jurisdictional boundaries of Stark County, Ohio.

Oath of Office

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm), I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, laws of Ohio and regulation of the department of agriculture of Ohio pertaining to agricultural societies, and to the best of my ability perform the duties of the director of the Stark County Agricultural Society, so help me God."

(Ohio Administrative Rule 901-5-06)

SEC. 4 All members of the board, are considered "Working Members". Directors are expected to do other tasks around the fairgrounds, besides the duties they are appointed to or assigned responsibilities. Any Officer or Member of the Board may be temporary suspended or removed from such office or Membership on this Board by a majority vote of the Board at any regular meeting. Notice shall be served on such officer or member by mail or person, or at a board meeting within ten days of such action. He Directors shall be given an opportunity to defend himself themselves at the next regular or special meeting of the Board. ~~when if by a three-fourths (3/4) vote such removal shall become permanent.~~ At the next board meeting the board will vote to suspend or remove an Officer or Member of the Board with a 2/3 majority vote.

SEC.5. The annual exhibition of the Fair Association shall be held on such dates as the Board may choose ~~at to be with~~ the approval of the State Board of Agriculture, for the best interest of the Society and County.

SEC. 6. The annual meeting of the membership of the Stark County Agricultural Society shall be held at least two weeks before the Annual Election of Board of Directors. ~~This~~ The annual meeting may be held before a regular scheduled board meeting in October. Date, location and time of the annual meeting must be in the Fairbook, on the back of membership cards, ~~and~~ posted in the Fair office and on the fair website. ~~Members will be notified of both Annual meeting and upcoming annual election three weeks before Annual meeting.~~

Article VII – Miscellaneous

SEC.1. The compensation of Board members shall be fixed by the Board of Directors in accord with the rules of the State Board of Agriculture for payment of 12 of the 14 meetings (Excludes daily fair meetings)

SEC.2. The Board of Directors shall fix the salary of the Secretary and Treasurer, an amount in accord with the rules of the State Board of Agriculture.

SEC.3. The Board of Directors shall regulate the distribution of passes.

SEC.4. Each Board member who attends with Winter Convention, Summer Convention, ~~or~~ Home Talent Colt Stakes, or other event, meeting or session approved by the Board shall be ~~paid as determined by the board on a yearly basis-~~ reimbursed the actual expenses, including mileage, incurred by the member.

SEC.5 The Board of Directors may approve the payment of wages for service to any director or staff, if board feels it benefited the society because of time, cost, labor, or skills.

SEC. 6. During week of its fair, the Board of Directors may approve the purchase of meals for directors, officers and staff or other individuals designated by board at a regularly scheduled meeting.

Article VIII

Rule 9. The constitution of by-laws of a society shall not be amended except by a majority vote of the membership voting at the annual election of the Board of Directors or at the annual meeting of the membership of the society.

Amendments to the Constitution or by-laws may be proposed by:

- (A) A majority of board of directors at a scheduled meeting voting in favor of placing an amendment on the ballot; or
- (B) Filing a petition with secretary of the society at least fourteen (14) days prior to the annual election of the board of director or to the annual meeting of membership of the society. Said petition must set forth the proposed amendment and be signed by not less than 25 members of the society. If an amendment is proposed as set forth in (A) or (B) above, it shall be submitted to the membership of the society at either the annual election or the annual meeting of the membership of the society. Said amendment shall be published in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the county or district concerned, no less than three not more than ten days before it is to voted on. 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.