CONSTITUTION FOR THE STARK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

As Revised & Adopted November 6, 2026

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 or older and a resident of Stark County, may become a member of the 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. 3. Membership certificated issued by the society shall bear:

a) The date, day and year membership begins.
b) Terms of Membership.
c) Name of the Society.
d) A space for signature of purchaser of said membership.
e) Consecutive Numbering.

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.

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 Directors 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. 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. 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. 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. 6. Any vacancy, caused by death, resignation, refusal to qualify, open seat, removal from township or city, absence from three meetings unless excused absent is approved, may be deemed grounds for declaring 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.

A Director can be appointed 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, for three years the seat will 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. 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 the board may deem proper to serve one year. The Secretary shall be a hired position with contract to be reviewed each year. No person shall serve as a President or Vice President for more than two (2) consecutive one-year terms in the same office. A person who has served two (2) consecutive terms in an office shall be ineligible for election to that same office for one (1) full year following the completion of the second consecutive term. Such person shall remain eligible to serve as a Director and may be elected or appointed to any other position for which the person is otherwise eligible.

SEC.2. All officers shall be elected from the membership of the Board, except the Secretary, Treasurer and Superintendent of Police and any other official deemed necessary 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 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. Directors shall be given an opportunity to defend themselves at the next regular or special meeting of the Board. 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 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. 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, posted in the Fair office and on the fair website.

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 accordance 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, Home Talent Colt Stakes, or other event, meeting or session approved by the Board shall be 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 be 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.

STARK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY BY-LAWS

Article 1

For the transaction of business, a majority of members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

Article II – Meetings

The Board shall meet the second Wednesday of each month to transact official business of the Society and each day of the Fair. One extra meeting will be scheduled in July and in August to complete fair preparations. Special meeting of the Board may be held when necessary, at the call of the President and Secretary or at written request of not less than five members of the Board.

Article III – Committees and Superintendents

SEC. 1. The following Standing Committees shall be appointed by the President and Vice President no later than one week after the organization election meeting in November. These Committees shall consist of a chairman and a minimum of 3 members and a maximum of 10 members. Auditing, Budget, Building & Grounds, Constitution & By-Laws, Junior Fair, Public Relations & Advertising, Privilege, Entertainment & Program, Speed, Ticket and Human Resources.

The Human Resources Committee shall be composed of Vice President, Treasurer, Junior Fair Chairman, Building & Grounds Chairman and one at large member. Special Committees may be appointed at any time necessary. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Chair of Auditing, Chair of Building and Grounds, Chair of Entertainment & Program, Chair of Human Resources, Chair of Junior Fair, Chair of Public Relations & Advertising. If a committee has co-chairs, the most senior of the members shall serve on the Executive Committee. The President and Secretary are members ex-officio of all committees.

SEC. 2. Superintendents of Halls and Departments shall be appointed by the President as soon as possible following the re-organizational election; and such appointments must be board members.

SEC. 3. A standing Committee, existing solely for capital improvement fundraising, named the "Capital Campaign and Strategic Future Building Plans Committee" shall be made up of seven total members; (4) current board members and (3) non fair board members. Four board members shall be the Treasurer, Chair of Building and Grounds, Vice President and one appointed Board member. This committee shall coordinate fundraising through any channels available to them for the sole purpose of capital improvement expenditures not already budgeted and approved by the Fair Board Directors. Ordinary repairs and maintenance of the fairgrounds shall not be under the committee's authority. A prioritized list of capital needs and goals shall be presented to the committee as compiled and approved by the Fair Board Directors. The committee does not have the authority to modify this prioritized list, unless approved by the Fair Board of Directors.

SEC. 4. Ad Hoc committees may be created by the President and appointed by the President and Vice President. These committees may or may not be utilized each year, pending board approval.

Ad hoc committees are, Truc and Tractor Pulling, Background Checks, Landscape Enhancement, Rides, Shuttles, Technology, Blue Ribbon (Fair Entry Program), Fair Sponsorship and Fundraising, Health and Safety, Fairbook, Golf Carts, Church Services, SCAS Hall of Fame.

Article IV – Duties of Officers

SEC. 1. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Board, use such authority

as the best interest of the Association may require, and exercise such other duties usually incumbent upon such officer.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the Vice President to assume all the duties of the President in the event of his absence or vacancy of office and assist the President in any manner necessary for the success of the Fair.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a list of all members of the Society: they shall collect monies from all sources, except from the sale of tickets: pay over the same to the Treasurer, taking their receipt for same, and submit a detailed statement of the Fair at the annual meeting in October, and at such other times as the Board may require. They shall make out a report to the State Board, as required by said board; keep a correct account of all receipts and expenditures of money; pay all bills after they have been approved by the parties contracting, or by the proper committee; record the minutes of all Board and Board Committee meetings; and with the Auditing Committee, regulate the use of passes as directed by the Board; pay premiums awarded; give a satisfactory bond, and attend to all business connected with this office.

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all monies of the Association and out the same on the order of the Secretary, countersigned by the President; keep an accurate account of all monies received and paid out by them as such treasurer, file annually with the Board at its annual meeting the last Friday of November in each year, and at such other times as they may be called upon to do so by the Board, a detailed and itemized statement of the receipts and expenditures of the Society. They shall receipt the Auditing Finance Committee for all admission and grandstand tickets turned over to them previous to the Fair and, after the Fair, take receipt from said committee for all admission and grandstand tickets not sold, they shall give a satisfactory bond for the faithful discharge of their duties, in such amount as the Board may require.

Article V – Duties of Committees

SEC. 1. It shall be the duty of the Building and Grounds Committee to see that the grounds are kept in neat and clean condition; that the buildings, fences and other property are kept in proper repair; to oversee the erection of new buildings and improving and repairing old buildings, and other improvements upon the grounds, and recommend a suitable person as custodian of the grounds, according to the direction of the Board.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the Auditing Committee to inspect and audit the accounts and books of the Secretary and Treasurer, and report the result of its findings to the Board of Directors; said report to show an itemized statement of receipts and expenditures for the year, said report shall be made a part of the records and a summary of same shall be published in a newspaper of the county and marked copy of same mailed to the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture of Ohio, not later than January 10th. All books accounts, reports, etc. shall be open to public inspection at all times during regular office hours.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the Public Relations and Advertising Committee to secure all necessary printing and advertising for the Society and have general supervision of the Advertising of the Fair, as the Board may direct.

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of the Speed Committee to secure racehorses and arrange a speed program and have a general supervision of the races as authorized by the Board.

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the Entertainment and Program Committee to secure suitable attractions for the Fair and to arrange all programs and have general supervision of same.

SEC. 6. It shall be the duty of the Human Resources Committee to employ, terminate and review all salaried employees' work performance on a regular basis and make recommendations to the budget committee and the board.

SEC. 7. It shall be the duty of the member in charge of privileges on the grounds to grant space and locate all privileges on the grounds, collect rental for privileges so located and have general

supervision over same. The member in charge of privileges located on the grounds shall not in any way allow or tolerate immoral shows, lottery devices, games of chance or gambling of any kind including paddle wheels or any other feature objectionable to the member in charge, who shall have the power to stop, remove, and if necessary, cause arrest for any violation of these rules or the rules of the Ohio State board of Agriculture or the laws of Ohio.

SEC. 8. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to act on matters demanding immediate attention, or when not necessary, to call the entire board members.

SEC. 9. The duties of the Special Committees shall be defined in the resolutions authorizing their appointment.

Article VI – Duties of Superintendents

SEC. 1. The Superintendent of Gates shall have general supervision and management of the gates.

SEC. 2. The Superintendent of Buildings shall grant space, oversee the arrangement of exhibits to the greatest advantage in making them neat and attractive.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the Superintendent of Police to appoint all police necessary for the day and night service, keep the time and report the same to the secretary; keep his force properly organized in order to protect property and exhibits; he shall have power to arrest or dictate the same, if necessary without further order by the Board.

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of the Superintendent of Parking to appoint all help necessary to assist in parking all cars; keep the time and report the same to the Secretary; keep their force properly organized in order to, as far as possible, have all cars parked so that exits can be made at any time.

SEC. 5. Superintendents of Departments shall have charge of their respective classes, secure competent judges to place the awards, record the decisions of the judges in proper class book, and have a general oversight of class or classes.

Article VII – Order of Business

SEC. 1.

1. Official Opening
2. Roll Call
3. Reading and approval or adoption of minutes
4. Bills and accounts
5. Unfinished Business
6. New Business
7. Report of Special Committees
8. Report of Standing Committees
9. Report of Officers
10. Miscellaneous Business
11. Appointments
12. Adjournment

SEC. 2. These By-Laws may be temporarily suspended at any meeting by a majority vote of the board.