

Constitution & By-Laws

Article I - Title

Section 1. This association, an agricultural non-profit corporation (Sec. 1711.01) shall be known as the Geauga County Agricultural Society.

Article II - Object

Section 1. The object of this Society shall be to promote and encourage agricultural, industry, science, art; promote general community betterment, together with all other industrial, commercial and educational interests of Geauga County which the Board of Directors deem proper in the best interests of the community.

Article III - Membership

Section 1. Any resident of Geauga County, twenty-one (21) years of age or over, shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Each member shall pay to the Secretary of the Society such annual fees as the Board of Directors may from time to time

determine. Membership tickets shall be placed on sale at the Annual Meeting the second Thursday in October and remain on sale until the final day of the fair the following year.

Section 3. No persons shall pay for or secure more than one (1) such membership, and that membership shall be for himself. No memberships shall be issued to corporations, organizations, partnerships or firms.

Article IV - Management

Section 1. The corporate powers, property and affairs of the Society, subject to legal limitations, shall be exercised, conducted and controlled by a Board of not more than twenty-one (21) elected Directors. These Directors, one elected from each township and five elected at large, shall hold office for a term of three (3) years with the terms so arranged that one third of the terms shall expire annually.

Section 2. Not more than two (2) directors from any one township, including any incorporated subdivisions therein, may serve on the Board of Directors at the same time.

Section 3. Any vacancy caused, may be filled by the Board of Directors until the next annual election, when a Director shall be elected to fill the unexpired term.

Section 4. The County Commissioners, County Superintendent of Schools, County Agricultural Agent and County Representatives shall be considered honorary members with full privileges except voting.

Article V - Election

Section 1. The annual election of the Board of Directors shall be held on the second Thursday of October from 5:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M., at the place designated by the officers.

Section 2. The election shall be by secret ballot. Ballots must be marked with an "X" opposite the name of each candidate voted for; otherwise the name will not be counted.

Section 3. Only persons twenty-one (21) years of age and over,

residents of Geauga County and holding memberships at the close of the annual Fair may vote.

Section 4. Members of the Society must declare their candidacy for the office of Director of the Society by filing with the Secretary of the Society, a petition signed by at least ten (10) members of the Society who are residents of the county in which the Society is organized, at least seven (7) days before the annual election of directors is to be held. Only regularly nominated candidates who have met the filing requirements will be eligible for election as a Director.

Section 5. The term of office of the retiring Directors shall expire, and that of Directors-elect shall begin on the third Thursday in November or until their successors shall be elected and qualified.

Article VI - Annual Meeting of the Membership

Section 1. The annual meeting of the members of the Society shall be held in the place designated by the officers on the second Thursday in October of each year from 5:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Section 2. At this 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 an opportunity to make

Geauga County Agricultural Society 2007 Memberships

Any resident of Geauga County, twenty-one (21) years of age or over may become a member of the Geauga County Agricultural Society.

Membership tickets are \$25.00 each, including (5) admissions to the fair, and the right to run & vote for Director of the Society. They are available at the Secretary's office each Wednesday 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. or Mon. - Fri., Aug. 1 thru Aug. 29, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and each day of the fair until 4:00 p.m. Sept. 3.

Fairgrounds Open Daily

August 30 - September 3

9 a.m. - Midnight

Exhibit Halls Open

10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

suggestions and recommendations for the improvement of the Society and its Fair. Such other business may be presented as may be prescribed by this 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 annually on the third Thursday in November following the annual election in October of the Board of Directors each year, and elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The President and Vice-President shall serve one year terms with a maximum of three terms permitted in each office during their entire tenure as Directors of the Society. The Treasurer shall serve one year, and the Secretary not more than three years as the Board may determine, and until their successors are elected and qualified.

Section 2. The President and Vice-President shall be Directors. The Secretary and the Treasurer may or may not be Directors.

Section 3. Before election of officers the newly-elected Directors shall qualify by taking the following oath (or affirmation) before a competent authority (designated by law):

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and Constitution of Ohio, laws of Ohio and rules 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 Geauga County Agricultural Society, so help me God."

Article VIII - Amendments

Section 1. Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by (A) a majority of the Board of Directors at a scheduled meeting voting in favor of placing an amendment before the membership at the next annual meeting or (B) filing a petition with the Secretary of the Society at least 14 days prior to the annual meeting. Said petition must set forth the proposed amendment and be signed by not less than 25 members.

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

Section 3. When more than one amendment is submitted to the membership of the Society, they shall be submitted as to enable the

members to vote on each amendment separately.

Article IX - Compensation

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

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall have the power to fix the remuneration of such directors as in its judgement have rendered services which justify compensation.

Article X - Bonds

Section 1. The Secretary shall post a surety bond in the amount of \$100,000 payable to the Society, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the duties of his office.

Section 2. The Treasurer shall post a surety bond in the amount of \$100,000 payable to the Society, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the duties of his office.

Article XI - Fair Dates

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

Article XII - Auxiliary

Section 1. The Board may provide for a Geauga County Agriculture Society auxiliary to the Board of Directors each year by the respective township board member selecting a person from their township, incorporated or county area to serve in that capacity.

Section 2. The Auxiliary shall organize and aid in the manner set forth by the officers of the Fair Board.

Article XIII - Quorum

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

Article XIV - Meetings

Section 1. The regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be the third Thursday of each month at 8 P.M. at a locale designated by the officers.

Section 2. Special 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 three members of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Written notice of special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be delivered personally to each Director or sent to each Director by mail, telegram, cablegram or radiogram at least two days before the meeting. Such notice, however, may be waived by any Director either before or after the meeting. The notice need not specify the purpose of the meeting.

Section 4. A single absence may be approved by the President or Executive Committee. Extended absence of three consecutive meetings shall be voted on by the Board of Directors. Unexcused absence of three consecutive meetings shall be subject to dismissal as a director of the board.

Article XV - Rules

The Board of Directors may enact such Rules and Regulations for conducting the business of the Society which do not conflict with the constitution or by-laws, Regulations of the Ohio Department of Agriculture, or laws of the State of Ohio.

Article XVI - Disbursements

Section 1. Any funds remaining in the event of liquidation of this organization shall not inure to the benefit of any members, and those remaining funds, at the time of liquidation, shall be surrendered to

another non-profit organization of similar nature.

Article XVII

Section 1. This constitution, adopted November 8, 1968, supercedes the constitution in effect previous to that date.

Veterinarian on grounds will take care of inspection of animals but if an animal becomes ill or needs medical attention at the fair, the individual owner/exhibitor should contact their own veterinarian first. If the veterinarian that is scheduled on the grounds that day is used, a fee will be charged for said services to the owner of the animal.