

BYLAWS FOR  
MESA VERDE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN, INC.  
And supersedes any earlier Bylaws

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this Chapter, which is a non-profit organization, shall be the MESA VERDE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN, INC.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be:

1. To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America 's back country and wilderness areas.
2. To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
3. To assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
4. To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the backcountry resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
5. To foster and encourage individuals to join and participate in their local, State, and National Back Country Horsemen organizations.

ARTICLE III: BCHCO COMPLIANCE

Mesa Verde Back Country Horsemen, Inc. (MVBCH) is an Affiliate of Back Country Horsemen of Colorado (BCHCO) and shall comply with the requirements of BCHCO and federal, state, and local law. The bylaws of MVBCH shall in no way conflict with the BCHCO bylaws.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1      Membership shall be open to anyone who is committed to the purposes of MVBCH as stated in ARTICLE II.
- Section 2      The membership classifications shall be:
- a. Individual - an individual 18 years or older
  - b. Family - two or more individuals directly related and living in the same dwelling; children are those under the age of 18.
  - c. Associate - membership of a business or organization.
  - d. Youth - a non-voting individual under the age of 18 who must have a guardian or sponsor who is a current member in good standing.
  - e. Honorary- awarded by the membership to a voting member that has benefited the organization through extraordinary and lasting contributions. Dues are waived.
- Section 3      Membership shall correspond to the calendar year: January 1 through December 31.

## ARTICLE V: DUES

- Section 1 Membership dues for individuals, family, associate and youth shall be determined by the Board, voted on by the general membership, and published in the monthly newsletter with the MVBCH Membership Application Form. Dues shall be payable on the first day of January of each year. If dues are not received by March 1 of the current year, a member may be dropped from the rolls, shall be removed as a member in "good standing" and shall relinquish all voting rights and privileges.
- Section 2 The holding of any office or membership on any committee shall be contingent upon the member being in "good standing."

## ARTICLE VI: VOTING

- Section 1 Individual and Associate members shall be entitled to one voting right. Family members shall carry two voting rights. Youth members do not carry any voting rights. Honorary members are entitled to one voting right. Only members in good standing may exercise the right to vote on matters of Chapter business.
- Section 2 Associate members may, at the time of membership application or renewal, designate one person who will be considered their voting member.
- Section 3 A simple majority of members present and in good standing that are voting when the organization is in session, shall be required to conduct that business requiring group action.
- Section 4 All voting members present and in good standing shall constitute a quorum for transaction of legal business at any regular or special meeting.
- Section 5 In case of emergency, business or other personal obligation, a member may request an absentee ballot for election and governance issues. They must submit their vote by phone or email to at least TWO ( 2) presiding Officers no less than 5 days before the vote. A record must be kept of the issue and such votes and ratified at the time of the vote. The absentee vote counts toward the quorum requirements for that meeting only.

## ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

- Section 1 Regular meetings shall be established and held at a time and place decided by a majority vote of the membership present at the meeting.
- Section 2 Special meetings may be called by the President, or upon written request signed by any (3) Directors, or upon written request signed by any six ( 6) voting members.
- Section 3 Notice shall be given to members in good standing of all meetings. Board meetings shall be held at the convenience of a majority of Directors, but shall meet a minimum of at least ten times per year. Time and place of next Board Meeting shall be decided and announced by Board Members present at the previous regular or special meeting. Regular members and invited guests shall be welcome at Board meetings but shall have no vote.

## ARTICLE VIII: OFFICERS AND BCHCO DIRECTORS

- Section 1 The officers of the Chapter are elected and shall consist of a president, a vice president, a secretary, a treasurer, and such other officers as the voting membership may create.
- Section 2 Officers are also voting Directors on the Board of Directors that shall consist of the four Officers plus both BCHCO Director 1 and BCHCO Director 2 for a total of six (6).
- Section 3 Two ( 2) State Board directors, Director 1 and Director 2, shall be elected by the membership at the September meeting to serve as chapter representatives to the BCHCO Board of Directors. The two (2) State Board directors shall serve staggered two year terms. Effective January 2018, Director 2 shall be elected for a two-year term every two years. Director 1 shall be elected for a one-year term and effective January 2019 shall be elected for a two-year term every two years.
- Section 4 Any vacancy in an officer' s or director's position shall be filled by special election to fill the position for the remaining term, except for that of President, which shall automatically be filled by the Vice President.
- Section 5 The election of officers and BCHCO directors shall be conducted at the September meeting in accordance with ARTICLE X of these bylaws.
- Section 6 Any vacancy or vacancies in any office or in the Board of Directors shall be filled by an election at the next general meeting for the balance of such term (except President which will automatically be filled by the Vice President) and a new Vice President will be elected.

## ARTICLE IX: DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND BCHCO DIRECTORS

- Section 1 The power and authority of this organization shall be vested in the membership. The officers and directors shall conform to the wishes and instructions of the membership; and subject to the rules of this document, shall manage and execute the affairs of the organization. When the organization is not in session, the Board of Directors shall have all necessary authority to manage the activities of the organization.
- Section 2 It shall be the duty of the President to preside over all regular, special and Board meetings, and to exercise general executive control. The President shall appoint committee chairpersons, with approval of Board, and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and relegate responsibility to committees. The President may sign checks for the disbursement of funds. The President shall be responsible for communication between the state and/or national organization, and performs such other duties as normal to the office of the President.
- Section 3 The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President when absent, or by request. The Vice President may also sign checks for the disbursement of funds and performs such other duties as normal to the office of Vice President or assigned by the president. He/she is responsible for keeping and updating the Chapter scrapbook, which contains photos, clippings and other historic records of Chapter activities. He/she may delegate this duty to another member but remains responsible for its safekeeping.

- Section 4 The Secretary shall record and keep the minutes of all regular, special and Board meetings, shall register and keep current membership lists, Assist President in preparing agendas, and perform such other duties as pertains to this office.
- Section 5 The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial control of all Chapter funds. The Treasurer shall give financial reports to the membership on a regular basis, shall keep financial records of income and expenditures suitable for audit, shall assist in the formation of an annual budget, shall collect dues, and maintain a "good standing" membership list. The Treasurer shall be a signer of the checks for the disbursement of funds and must review all expenditures prior to payment; file annually all appropriate federal and state non-profit and corporate forms, make appropriate Internal Revenue reports, and perform such other duties as normal to the office of the Treasurer.
- Section 6 The Chapter BCHCO directors shall represent the Chapter on the state board of directors and at state board meetings. The directors shall be responsible for the flow of information to and from the state organization.
- Section 7 In the event Officers or Directors need to resign they may do so by giving fourteen (14) days written notice and turning over all documents, printed, written and electronic, to the President, or in the case of a resigning President, to the Vice President along with any other material possessions belonging to the Chapter.

#### ARTICLE X: ELECTIONS

- Section 1 Officers and BCHCO directors shall be elected at the September meeting for a two-year term, and they will assume office October 1st of that calendar year following such election.  
Officers shall serve through September 30<sup>th</sup> of the following second year and BCHCO directors shall serve for two (2) year staggered terms. Officers shall serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same position or office.  
BCHCO Directors may serve multiple terms.
- Section 2 The President shall appoint a nominating committee of at least three voting members at least two months prior to the general election.
- Section 3 The nominating committee shall select a slate of candidates for the officers and BCHCO director positions to be voted on at the general election. The slate shall be presented at the regular September meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor during the election. Any candidate must be a member in good standing and personally agree to accept the duties of the position. Associate and Youth Members may not be considered for an office or BCHCO director.

#### ARTICLE XI-COMMITTEES

- Section 1 Committees, necessary for the functioning of the Chapter, shall be created by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors.
- Section 2 Committee chairpersons shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board. Vacancies of a committee chairperson shall be filled by appointment by the President and approved by Board.
- Section 3 Committee chairpersons shall select members as necessary to accomplish the functions of the committee.

- Section 4 Each committee Chairperson will present a report covering said committee's functions at each board and membership meeting. The President shall have authority to postpone or eliminate any Committee reports to suit the time frame or content of any meeting.
- Section 5 The standing committees are Public Lands, Education, and Trail Maintenance.

**ARTICLE XII: REMOVAL**

- Section 1 Any officer, BCHCO director, or member whose conduct has not been in the best interests of the Chapter may be removed from participation in chapter activities by a two-thirds vote of the membership present and in good standing at a regular or special meeting.
- Section 2 Notification of intent to remove an officer, BCHCO director, or member must be made known at the regular meeting preceding the meeting that the action is to take place.
- Section 3 An officer, BCHCO director, or member who is removed must be informed in writing of the action taken by the membership.

**ARTICLE XIII: LIQUIDATION, DISSOLUTION, OR TERMINATION**

- Section 1 Upon dissolution of the corporation, and after paying or making provisions for the payment of all liabilities of the corporation, the corporation will dispose of all assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation, in such manner, or to such organizations organized and operated exclusively as a charitable organization qualifying as an exempt organization under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding provisions of any future federal tax laws.

**ARTICLE XIV -AMENDMENTS**

- Section 1 These bylaws may be amended at any regular or special meeting by a majority vote, provided notice of such proposed amendment and a "first reading" be given to the membership at a regular meeting preceding the vote on the amendment.

**bylaws adopted this 13th day of February, 2024, and supersede any earlier bylaws.**

**President**

**Secretary**

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**Alan Story**

**Date**

**Lauren Lawrence**

**Date**