

BYLAWS

Of the

ILLINOIS TAXIDERMIST ASSOCIATION

A NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION

ARTICLE ONE

GOVERNING LAWS

These Bylaws shall constitute the bylaws and code of rules adopted by the Illinois Taxidermist Association for the regulation and management of its affairs.

ARTICLE TWO

NAME

The name of this association shall be the "Illinois Taxidermist Association" hereinafter referred to as the I.T.A.

ARTICLE THREE

PURPOSES AND POWERS

The I.T.A. shall have the purposes and powers as may be stated in its Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws, and such powers as are now or may be granted hereafter by the Illinois General Not for Profit Corporation Act or a successor legislation. The primary purpose of the I.T.A. shall be:

To promote the highest standards in the art and science of taxidermy

To assist and encourage the production of only the highest quality work by its members.

To assist its members in connection with the laws governing the taxidermy trade.

To establish a code of ethics and promote fair business practices within the profession of taxidermy.

To support and encourage sound management policies at all levels of government in order to ensure the preservation and conservation of our natural and wildlife resources.

To function as a not for profit educational organization through the preservation and display of wildlife specimens.

To foster in the general public a greater understanding and appreciation of the art of taxidermy.

To engage in such other civic, charitable and educational activities as the I.T.A. may deem appropriate.

ARTICLE FOUR

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

SECTION I

CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBERS

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP: "Active" Membership in the I.T.A. shall be available only to residents of the State of Illinois with an interest in amateur or professional taxidermy.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP: "Associate" Membership in the I.T.A. shall be available to any non-resident with an interest in amateur or professional taxidermy as well as any other party, whether resident or non-resident, with an interest in the preservation and conservation of the natural and wildlife resources of the State of Illinois.

SECTION II

MEMBERSHIP PLANS

MEMBERSHIP: Subject to the qualifications as set forth in SECTION I above, "active" or "associate" Membership shall be available to any Individual or Family desiring membership in the I.T.A. and shall extend the appropriate membership privileges to individuals; and husband and wife and to their minor children.

SUPPLIER MEMBERSHIP: "Supplier" membership in the I.T.A. shall be available to any business enterprise engaged in providing supplies or services to the taxidermy trade including, but not necessarily limited to the taxidermy suppliers and tanners.

SECTION III

MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES

ACTIVE MEMBERS shall be entitled to all membership privileges including the right to vote, enter I.T.A. competitions and to hold elective or appointed office.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS shall be entitled to all membership privileges except that associate members shall not be eligible to vote or hold elective or appointed office.

SUPPLIERS MEMBERS shall be entitled to all membership privileges except that supplier members shall not be eligible to vote, enter I.T.A. competitions or hold elective or appointed office. Supplier members shall be entitled to display and market their services and/or supplies at I.T.A. conventions and shall be provided with standard booth space at no cost.

SECTION IV

TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

FAILURE TO RENEW: Any member whose dues shall remain unpaid for ten days following a second notice of renewal shall be removed from the membership role.

WITHDRAWAL: Any member may withdraw from the I.T.A. by giving written notice of such withdrawal to the Secretary of the association

EXPULSION: Any member may be expelled for conduct which brings discredit upon or is otherwise detrimental to the I.T.A. by an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the Board of Directors and the subsequent approval of a majority of the voting members.

Allegations of misconduct made against a member shall be received by an Ethics Committee comprised of three I.T.A. members appointed by the Board of Directors. Following a review of the allegations and after consideration of any response made by the individual concerned, the Ethics Committee shall determine if the charges are justified and of such a nature as to warrant expulsion. In which case, the Ethics Committee shall make its recommendation to the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors shall take no action to expel a member unless it has received such a recommendation from the Ethics Committee.

SECTION V

DUES

The Board of Directors shall set the amount of annual dues for each classification and type of membership, provided, however that no increase in dues shall be valid until such increase has been ratified and approved by a majority of the voting members.

Annual dues are payable in advance and shall be due on March 1st of each year. Membership renewal notices shall be mailed to each member no later than February 1st. A second notice of renewal shall be mailed to any member whose dues shall remain unpaid on April 1st.

ARTICLE FIVE

VOTING

SECTION I

ELIGIBILITY

Each “Active” Membership in the I.T.A. shall be entitled to two votes on any matter coming before the membership. “Associate” and “Supplier” members shall not be eligible to vote.

SECTION II

MANNER OF VOTING

Voting may be conducted by voice or roll call vote on any matter coming before the membership except, however that upon the request of any voting member, voting shall be written secret ballot. Voting may also be conducted by mail-in ballots. Absentee ballots for the election of officers, in order to be valid, must be executed by the voting member and received by the Secretary of the I.T.A. no less than three days prior to such election.

SECTION III

MAJORITY RULE

A majority of the votes entitled to be cast at any meeting shall be necessary for the adoption of any matter coming before the membership unless a greater proportion is required by the General Not for Profit Corporation Act, the Articles of Incorporation of the I.T.A. or any provision of these bylaws. In the case of a vote conducted by mail, a majority of the ballots returned shall decide the results.

ARTICLE SIX

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION I

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

Elective officers of the I.T.A. shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and eight Board members from throughout the state.

SECTION II

ELIGIBILITY

Nominees for any elective office shall have been “active” members in good standing for no less than one year prior to such an election.

SECTION III

ELECTION AND INSTALLATION

Election of officers shall be held at the annual meeting with installation to be effective immediately. "Active" members in good standing may vote in person or by absentee ballot.

SECTION IV

TERMS OF OFFICE

Terms of office will begin upon installation at the annual meeting and continue for a period of two years for all elective offices except that of the *Secretary* and *Treasurer* whose term of office shall be three years. The terms of office for Board members shall be staggered so as to allow the election of four Board members at each annual meeting.

SECTION V

DUTIES

PRESIDENT: The president shall be the principal executive officer of the association and shall, in general, supervise and manage the affairs of the association as authorized by the Board of Directors. The president shall preside at all meetings of the members and the Board of Directors, appoint committees, direct correspondence and perform such other duties as the needs of the association may require. The president shall be a voting member of the Board of Directors only in the event of a tie-vote or in matters requiring a 2/3 majority vote of the Board of Directors.

VICE-PRESIDENT: The Vice-President shall, in the absence of the President or at his request, perform the duties of the President. The Vice-President shall be a voting member of the Board of Directors and perform such other duties as directed by the President and Board of Directors.

SECRETARY: The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the members and the Board of Directors and record their proceedings. The Secretary shall assist the President in preparing the agenda for meetings and issue notices of each meeting and any other notices in accordance with these Bylaws or otherwise required by law. The Secretary shall, in the absence of both the president and Vice-President, assume the duties of the President. The Secretary shall be a voting member of the Board of Directors and perform such other duties as directed by the President and Board of Directors.

TREASURER: The Treasurer shall receive all moneys, pay bills as authorized by the Board of Directors, keep accurate records of all receipts and disbursements and submit a semi-annual financial report to the Board of Directors. The treasurer shall be a voting member of the Board of Directors and perform such other duties as directed by the President and Board of Directors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The Board of Directors shall consist of twelve members comprised of the four elective officers and eight Board members. The Board of Directors shall manage the affairs of the association, control all expenditures, protect the assets of the association and act in the interest of its members in any way consistent with these Bylaws. The Board shall act by a majority vote of the Board members present at any meeting of the Board unless a greater proportion is required by the General Not for Profit Corporation Act, the Articles of Incorporation of the I.T.A. or any provision of these bylaws.

SECTION VI

VACANCIES

In the event that a vacancy should occur in any office, other than the office of the President, the Board of Directors shall appoint any eligible member to hold that office for the remainder of the vacated term. In the event that the office of President should become vacant, the Vice-President shall fill the remainder of the term.

SECTION VII

ATTENDANCE

Officers and Board members are expected to attend all meetings of the I.T.A. membership and Board of Directors. Any officer or Board member who is excessively absent from such meetings and is unable to show just cause may be removed from office by a 2/3 majority vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE SEVEN

MEETINGS

An annual convention of the I.T.A. shall be held in the spring of each year at a location selected by the Board of Directors. The convention will consist of the annual membership meeting, election of the officers and/or Board members, an annual taxidermy competition and may include seminars. A meeting of the Board of Directors will also be held at the convention.

ARTICLE EIGHT

AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed and new bylaws adopted by 2/3 majority of the entire voting membership provided that prior notice of the proposed amendments has been given to each of the voting members.

ADOPTION OF THE BYLAWS

These Bylaws duly adopted by a majority vote of the I.T.A. members in accordance with the requirements of the association’s predecessor bylaws on the 22nd day of March 2018

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE AND APPROVING

Bob Fatheree, President

Frank Williams, Vice-President

Amanda Weathers, Secretary

Pete Sweitzer, Treasurer

President: _____ Vice-President: _____

Secretary: _____ Treasurer: _____

Board Member: _____ Board Member: _____

Board Member: _____ Board Member: _____

Board Member: _____ Board Member: _____

Board Member: _____ Board Member: _____