

Orange Blossom Beekeepers Association Constitutional By-Laws



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1. Article I – Name

The name of this organization, shall be, **The Orange Blossom Beekeepers Association.**

2. Article II – Purpose

The Orange Blossom Beekeepers Association is organized to engage in any activities which will increase knowledge of and promote apiculture in Central Florida.

2.1. Article II – Section 1 - Motto and Mission

OBBA Motto:

- "Creating beekeepers for life"

OBBA Mission:

- To educate, mentor, assist, inspire, support and promote beekeeping in the state of Florida and beyond.

2.2. Article II – Section 2 - Objectives

- To provide education to all those who desire to learn.
- To mentor those eager to carry on the beekeeping knowledge.
- To assist those with beekeeping concerns.
- To inspire interest in beekeeping in youth.
- To support and promote a community and global beekeeping spirit.
- To increase club membership, networking and visibility in our community.

3. Article III - Membership

3.1. Article III – Section 1 - Membership

Any individual interested in becoming a member of this Association may do so by completing the membership form and paying the dues set forth by the Executive Board. Memberships will be valid for a period set by the Board of Directors, but shall not expire prior to August 31 of the same year.

3.2. Article III – Section 2 - Voting

Each membership is allowed one vote. Each single membership fee will entitle that individual, family, firm or association to one vote. Proxy voting shall not be permitted.

Members in good standing may vote in association elections or bylaws changes.

Members in good standing must have attended at least three association sanctioned events (including virtual attendance) within the last 12 months as a paid member and be at least 14 years old at the time of the vote.

3.3. Article III – Section 3 - Termination

Any member may be suspended or terminated for cause or for non-payment of dues. Sufficient cause for such suspension or termination of membership shall be violation of the Bylaws or any other conduct prejudicial to the interests of the Association.

Suspension or expulsion shall be by 75% (4/5) vote of the Executive Committee, taken at any regularly constituted meeting of the committee, provided that a statement of the charges shall have been mailed by certified or registered mail to the last recorded address of the member at least fifteen (15) days before final action is taken thereon. This statement shall be accompanied by a notice of the time and place of the meeting of the Committee at which the charges shall be considered and the member shall have the opportunity to appear in person and/or be represented by counsel to present any defense to such charges before action is taken thereon.

Non-payment of dues shall be considered as immediate voluntary resignation of membership sixty (60) days after the member's anniversary renewal date.

4. Article IV – Directors

The governing body of this association will be the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall consist of five members.

The Board of Directors has authority to make decisions, direct policy, and any other action it deems necessary for the success of the Association unless otherwise stated in this document.

Directors of the Association must be members in good standing at the time of election and must remain members in good standing during their entire term.

4.1. Article IV – Section 1 – Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and one additional Director.

If the President is less than 18 years old, one of the other Directors must be over 18 years old to be able to sign legal documents for the organization, and be willing to accept such responsibility.

4.2. Article IV – Section 2 – Death or resignation

In case of a death or resignation of an officer or Director of this Association, the vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote by and from the Association members at the earliest possible regular meeting or special meeting if deemed necessary by the President.

5. Article V – Officers

The Executive Officers of the Association shall consist of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and the one additional Director.

The Executive Officers are elected at the last meeting of each year by a majority vote of the voting members present. All officers serve one year terms beginning in September the same year.

Not all officers shall be replaced at the same time.

Officers can be re-elected, but President may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

5.1. Article V – Section 1 - President

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and of the Board of Directors.

The President has the authority to call any special meetings of Membership or the Board of Directors with reasonable notice, at any time or place deemed necessary by the President. These meetings shall be limited in scope to functions not otherwise served by regular meetings.

The President also has the authority to appoint committees and to appoint individuals to specific jobs.

5.2. Article V – Section 2 - Vice President

The Vice President shall preside in the absence of the President and assume all of the duties of the President in the President's temporary absence.

5.3. Article V – Section 3 - Secretary

The Secretary shall carry on all correspondence of the association, keep minutes of the regular meetings, and give a report at each regular meeting.

5.4. Article V – Section 4 - Treasurer

The Treasurer shall collect membership dues and all other funds, and have charge of all moneys collected.

The Treasurer shall give a Treasurer's report at regular meetings.

All funds of the Association shall be deposited in such bank as the Board of Directors shall authorize. The Treasurer shall be authorized to sign drafts and checks of the Association in the discharge of day-to-day budgeted business accounts. For drafts and checks of the Association over \$300, an additional officer signature is required.

Signature authority for payment amounts greater than 20% of the total liquid assets of the Association requires prior approval by majority vote by the Association Membership present at a regular meeting, except that funds donated for a specific purpose may be paid for that purpose by the Treasurer without a membership vote.

5.5. Article V – Section 5 - Additional Officer

The Additional Officer will be selected by the President and will serve as Membership Director.

The Additional Officer will be responsible for supporting the membership, and recruitment and promotion of members.

They will take roll at all meetings, and be responsible for tracking member's standing.

5.6. Article V – Section 6 - Eligibility

Only voting members may serve as officers of the Association, as the Association's delegates to other organizations, or as chairperson of any select committees.

5.7. Article V – Section 7 - Officer Removal

In the event a board member abandons an office or is otherwise neglectful in the duties of the office, the board member may be removed from office by nomination and vote of the membership.

At any regular meeting, any member may nominate a board member for removal. A board member nominated for removal is subject to majority vote of the members present at the regular meeting following their nomination for removal.

A board member so removed may be replaced at the same regular meeting by nomination and majority vote of the members present.

5.8. Article V - Section 8 - Other Positions

Only Members in good standing can hold these positions.

These positions are to work closely with the Executive Team.

1. Apiary Manager
 - Responsible for the maintenance, upkeep, and health of the Association's apiary.
 - Ensure inspections are performed per Florida regulations
 - Host/Delegate monthly workshops
2. IT Manager
 - Responsible for maintenance, security, and availability of:
 - Website
 - Communication technology
3. Outreach Coordinator
 - Lead and coordinate Association events
 - Organize marketing for Association
4. Newbee Welcome Coordinator
 - Champion new members and welcome visitors at meetings
 - Lead mentor pairings for new beekeepers with experienced OBBA Members

6. Article VI – Meetings

The Orange Blossom Beekeepers Association shall hold regular monthly meetings on the **Third Thursday of each month**, beginning September 1, and such meetings as may be called by the President.

6.1. Article VI – Section 1 - Workshops

The Orange Blossom Beekeepers Association shall hold regular monthly workshops at a designated apiary, led by the Apiary Manager, on the **Saturday following the regular meeting each month** weather permitting and pending notice given.

7. Article VII - Constitutional Bylaws Amendments

The Constitutional Bylaws of the Orange Blossom Beekeepers Association may be amended by two-thirds vote of the voting members present at two separate regular meeting of the Association that meet the quorum of more than half of the average monthly attendance of the previous 12 month meetings.

Bylaws changes or amendments that are ratified by the Association at a regular meeting will go into effect immediately, with the exception of changes to dues, which will go into effect the following September 1.

8. Article VIII - Dissolution

Upon dissolution of the Association, all assets and funds shall be given to the UF Honeybee Lab or, in the event this laboratory is no longer in existence, the assets and funds shall be given to another IRS recognized educational non-profit that is not a local beekeeping association, as designated by 75% (4/5) vote of the sitting Board of Directors.

9. Article IX - Use of Association Funds

No part of the net earnings of the association shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II hereof.

No substantial part of the activities of the association shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the association shall not participate in, or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the association shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a association exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.