

Wisconsin Donkey & Mule Society, Inc.

BYLAWS

Article I – Name

The name of this organization is the Wisconsin Donkey & Mule Society, Inc.

Article II – Purpose

1. To promote and improve the quality of donkeys, mules, and hinnies and related hybrids in Wisconsin
2. To develop and encourage good sportsmanship and fellowship in recreation and useful work involving donkeys and mules.
3. To provide a forum for the exchange of information, products, and resources necessary and interesting to donkey and mule owners and enthusiasts.
4. To assist members in improving their skills and knowledge of donkeys and mules, and their care, training, and handling.
5. To educate and inform the public about the virtues and values of donkeys and mules for recreation and work, and to encourage a better market for donkeys and mules in Wisconsin.
6. To cultivate friendly, cooperative, and helpful relations with similar groups.
7. To own and/or lease property for club uses.

Article III – Membership

1. Membership in the organization shall be limited to active members. An active member in good standing is one who has paid his or her dues. Memberships shall be for the calendar year, January 1 to December 31.
2. Dues shall be paid annually.
3. Charter members shall be all those who join the Society during 1985.

Article IV – Officers and Directors

1. There shall be five (5) officers who shall be called President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Correspondence Secretary, and Treasurer, who must be elected for the active membership for overlapping two year terms.
2. The Board of Directors shall consist of the aforementioned Officers and seven (7) Directors to be elected from the active membership for overlapping 2 year terms; half of which will be elected biannually.

Article V – Duties of Officers and Directors

1. The Board of Directors shall direct the affairs of the organization; always striving to serve the needs and desires of the membership.
2. The President shall preside at all meetings of the membership and all meetings of the Board of Directors and he shall perform all the duties incident to this office. The President shall have the power to appoint such committees as he may deem necessary from time to time.
3. The Vice-President shall act for the President in his absence and assist him in the discharge of his duties.
4. The duty of the Recording Secretary shall be to keep a record of all the meetings of this organization, carry out any correspondence as directed by the Board or membership, and keep all corporate records and certificates up to date.
5. The duty of the Treasurer shall be to keep regular and correct financial records, keep charge and custody of all funds, to pay necessary bills and expenses of the Wisconsin Donkey and Mule Society, Inc., and to report at all meetings on the Society's financial status. All checks shall be signed by the Treasurer or the Recording Secretary.
6. The duty of the Correspondence Secretary is to answer miscellaneous mail regarding WDMS inquiries, memberships, update members listings, to assist with a minimum of four (4) newsletters per year, and carry out any correspondence as directed by the Board or membership.

Article VI – Meetings

1. Regular meetings of the society shall be held at least twice per year.
2. The first regular meeting of the year shall be known as the annual meeting and shall be for the purpose of electing officers and directors, receiving reports of officers and committees, and for any other business that may arise.
3. Special meetings of the society may be called by two (2) directors or upon the written request of three (3) members of the society in good standing. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call or written notice, and notice sent to members at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the special meeting via the newsletter or special mailing to the membership.
4. Five (5) members entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the membership.
5. Each adult in membership (one for a single membership and a maximum of two for a family membership) is entitled to vote on club issues and elections.

Article VII – Elections

1. At each annual meeting there will be an election of officers and directors.
2. Nominations may be made prior to each annual meeting or from the floor.
3. Elections shall be by secret ballot unless there is only one candidate for an office in which case the vote for that office may be by voice vote or show of hands. A plurality shall be required to elect.
4. Only active members in good standing whose dues are paid shall be eligible to vote. Each individual membership shall have one vote and each family membership two votes.

Article VIII – Amendments

1. A motion may be made at any meeting of this organization to amend these bylaws. The motion must have 2/3 majority of all members at the meeting. The motion will be discussed and printed in the next newsletter along with ballots. Members in good standing can choose to vote by mail ballot or at the next meeting. All mail ballots must have the member's name and return address on the outside of the envelope and marked **BALLOT**. At the next regular meeting the amendment will be explained and voted on. The mail in ballots will be counted along with the ballots from the members who voted at that meeting. The vote must have 2/3 majority of all members in good standing that voted.

Article IX – Disbandment of the Society

1. If at any time the Society decides to disband, the balance of the treasury will be donated to the American Donkey and Mule Society, so that it may continue to further our goals.

Article X – Annual Financial Audit

1. The President shall appoint two active members to conduct the annual financial audit following each yearly election. The asset inventory shall be considered part of the annual audit.

As amended March 10, 2007