

**BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF NEVADA,  
INCORPORATED  
BY-LAWS**  
(Amended February, 2018)  
(Amended February, 2021)

**ARTICLE I. Name**

1. The name of this organization shall be BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF NEVADA, INC. (BCHN). It shall be incorporated as a non-profit educational organization, without the issuance of stock.
2. This organization will operate as a recognized affiliate of the Back Country Horsemen of America, and be subject to regulation governing volunteer organizations designated as 501(c)(3) under applicable legal standing.

**ARTICLE II. Objective**

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 back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
5. To foster and encourage the formation of new state BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN organizations.

**ARTICLE III. Affiliation**

Section 1. The corporation may affiliate with any other group or organization compatible with the stated purposes and objectives of the corporation as may be imposed by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The Board of directors may withdraw, cancel, renounce or reject affiliation with any organization when in the exercise of discretion such affiliation serves no useful purpose, or threatens the good name or reputation of the corporation, or threatens the non-profit or tax exempt status of the corporation.

**Article IV. Membership and Dues**

Section 1. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and objectives of the corporation, by application and payment of current annual dues becomes a member of BCHN.

Section 2. Members shall join BCHN through regional chapters. Regional Chapters may be formed and use/adopt “\_\_\_\_\_Chapter of the BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF NEVADA” except no Regional chapter shall be called “BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF NEVADA, INC.” or similar name which may be confused with this parent organization. Such Regional chapter may incorporate, subject to the laws and regulations of the State of

Nevada.

Section 3. The Board of Directors may establish and modify classes of membership, such as Individual, Family with appropriate rules governing such classifications and relative annual dues. Changes adopted by the Board of Directors for membership classifications or dues structure shall have no effect until the membership next following the annual meeting and ratified by the membership attending the annual meeting.

Section 4. Annual dues shall be established at annual meeting of the membership of BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF NEVADA, INC. and shall be published in the chapter newsletters. Dues shall be structured upon the projected budget costs of administration and operation recommended by the Board of Directors divided by the factors representing current membership. The membership shall approve the proposed budget for the next business year, and by their memberships underwrite their proportionate share of the budget for the year. This obligation shall be printed in their annual report.

Section 5. The membership year and the business year as mentioned in these By-laws shall mean the calendar year.

#### **Article V. Officers and Their Duties**

Section 1. The officers of the corporation shall be the Chairperson of the Board / President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, two National Board Representatives, and one Alternate, one Director from each chapter, and such other officers with such titles and duties as shall be determined by the Board and necessary to enable it to sign documents or conduct normal business. The President/Chairperson is the chief executive officer of the corporation. Any number of offices may be held by the same person except that the Secretary/Treasurer shall not serve concurrently with the President / Chair-person.

Section 2. The President shall be elected at the Annual meeting of the membership for a term of two years. The President shall conduct the Annual meeting of the membership meeting and shall be chairperson of the Board of Directors at its meetings. The President shall appoint such committees that may be necessary and appropriate to conduct the business of the corporation, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, and shall serve as ex-officio member of all committees.

Section 3. The Vice President shall be elected at the Annual meeting of the membership for a term of two years, and in the absence of the President shall preside at the Annual membership meeting, and the Board of Directors meetings. The Vice President shall be responsible for membership development, club affiliation or chapter organization and coordination, and may structure a membership committee under this chairpersonship for such purposes.

Section 4. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected at the Annual meeting for a term of two years and shall:

- Keep minutes of the Board of Directors meetings and the annual membership meeting.
- Prepare the agenda for the Board and membership meetings.
- Keep accurate records of income, expenses, disbursements, membership and corporate accounts, and have those available for audit at the Annual meetings.
- Be the financial officer for major BCHN functions such as, but not limited to, annual BCHN meeting.
- Produce a financial statement following the Annual meeting and have it available for use by future committees.
- Conduct activities, undefined herein, but typically associated with either a Secretary or a Treasurer.

**Section 5.** Two National Directors to BCHN shall be elected to represent BCHN at the annual Backcountry Horsemen of America meeting. They shall serve staggered two-year terms, and once rotation order has been established, one Director and one Alternate shall be elected each year. The term of the Alternate shall be one year. All candidates for the National Director, or Alternate to BCHN must be members of a BCHN affiliate group, and have been a member in good standing for a minimum of 2 years.

**Section 6.** One Director from each chapter shall be elected to serve on the State Board of Directors as a representative of that respective chapter. Directors shall be elected for a term of two years.

## **ARTICLE VI. Board of Directors**

**Section 1.** The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Vice President, **Secretary/Treasurer**, immediate Past-President, Directors / Directors-at-Large, current President of each chapter, and two National Directors.

**Section 2.** The Board of Directors is responsible for the policies and programs of the corporation, for supervision over the conduct of business of the corporation, the bonding of officers (if necessary), and preparation of the annual report to the membership at the annual meeting. Also, the Board of Directors shall establish the guidelines for the **Secretary/Treasurer** in disbursing of the funds of the corporation and shall approve extraordinary (non-budgeted) administrative expenses before payment will be authorized.

### **Section 3. Directors**

- A. Directors shall be current Chapter Presidents.
- B. Alternate Directors are to be elected in the same manner as the Directors, to serve in the absence of the duly elected Directors.
- C. Each Director or Alternate Director is to represent the membership of the chapter or program or the area for which elected and is to inform the Board of activities and concerns relative to such area or district, and is to represent and promote the interests and purposes of the corporation in such Chapter, program, or area.
- D. Directors and their Alternates shall serve a term of one year. Their terms of office shall be staggered to provide continuity of service.

**Section 4.** The Board of Directors shall fill vacancies in an elective office by appointment until an election may be held under the terms and provisions of these By-laws.

**Section 5.** The Board of Directors may remove or declare a Board position vacated by unanimous ballot because of inattention to duties and responsibilities; failure to attend two or more consecutive board meetings without excusable cause; or conduct which may adversely reflect on the integrity of the corporation, the Board may deem such action is in the best interest of the corporation.

## **ARTICLE VII. Meetings**

### **Section 1. Membership Meetings**

- A. The regular Annual meeting of the membership shall be held for the conducting of business of the corporation, on or about the first weekend in January or February each year, at a time and

place designated by the Board. Notice of such meeting shall be published in the chapter newsletters.

- B. Special meetings of the membership may be called by the president upon giving at least thirty days notice prior to the time and place specified in such notice together with the purpose and business to be conducted at such special meeting. Notice may be given either in the chapter newsletter, by regular mail to the current addresses of membership on record or both.

## Section 2. Board of Director meetings

- A. The Board of Directors shall meet in conjunction with the Annual meeting and special meetings of the membership. Board members present shall constitute a quorum.
- B. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called, or a poll by mail may be held, at the discretion of the President when issues require the attention or action of the Board of Directors. Information on the place and business to be conducted shall be sent to the Board members, by regular mail, at least 10 days prior to such meetings. Board members attending shall constitute a quorum.

## **ARTICLE VIII. Elections and Voting Procedures**

Section 1. Each chapter, with its members, shall elect one delegate to the BCHN Annual meeting, plus one additional delegate for each additional 15 members or major fraction thereof. Each delegate or his Alternate must be present to vote on any issue where a delegate vote is called for. There shall be no voting by proxy. Each delegation's chairperson shall vote for the delegation.

Section 2. Each member present shall be entitled to vote on any issue unless a delegate vote is requested by at least 10 members. When a delegate vote is properly ordered, the presiding officer shall then poll the delegate chairmen for the vote of their delegations, for, or against, or split.

Section 3. Each member for the Board of Directors shall have one vote at meetings of the Board of Directors. Members of the Board of Directors may send an Alternate qualified by a written note of authorization that must be delivered to the **Secretary/Treasurer** prior to the time of the meeting. The President may take a poll of the Board of Directors by mail by submitting all information, pertinent to the issue, to each Board member with a request for an affirmative or negative reaction, which shall be ratified or acted upon at the next regular Board meeting; polling by mail shall be advisory only.

## **ARTICLE IX. Committees**

Section 1. The President may appoint chairmen for the following committees or combinations thereof, or may designate committees that he deems necessary to carry out the purposes and objectives of the corporation.

A Publicity Chairperson may be appointed by the President subject to the approval of the Board of Directors and shall develop and administer information, programs, publications, and public relations activities which give the corporation a visible public profile and maximize favorable recognition.

An Education Chairperson may be appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors and shall administer "Tread Lightly Crew" and other programs used to educate the horsemen to "TREAD LIGHTLY" on the land.

A Legislative Chairperson may be appointed by the President subject to the approval of the Board of Directors and shall attempt to keep track of all public land issues and legislation filed in the State Legislature or U.S. Congress that could affect horsemen and/or horse use. He shall attempt to keep BCHN membership aware of all such legislation through the chapter newsletter or by other means. He shall confer with the BCHN President on issues that might be controversial. He shall be the official speaker for the BDN membership at Legislative Hearings on horse related or recreational legislation.

An Expansion Chairman may be appointed by the President subject to the approval of the Board of Directors and shall work toward the establishment of new BCHN chapters in areas where a BCHN chapter would benefit the local horsemen and the BCHN.

## **ARTICLE X. Housekeeping**

Section 1. The fiscal year shall be from January 1 to December 31.

Section 2. Roberts Rules of Order is adopted as a guideline for conduct of all meetings. The President may serve as Parliamentarian, or in his absence or in his exercise of discretion may appoint a Parliamentarian. The decision of the parliamentarian shall be final in all questions of procedure.

Section 3. Wherever the masculine gender is used herein the feminine shall be deemed included. Wherever the singular form is used herein the plural shall be deemed included to aid in the interpretation of the sense intended.

Section 4. In the event of the dissolution of the Back Country Horsemen of Nevada, the Treasurer is directed to pay all outstanding debts.

Section 5. Upon dissolution of the Organization, any unexpended State / Chapter funds will be distributed to Back Country Horsemen of America or another 501(C)3 organization.

Section 6. Wherever the term HORSE is used herein, shall be deemed to include mules, donkeys, llamas, or other riding or pack stock used for BCHN purposes.

## **ARTICLE XI. Amendment to By-Laws**

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended, repealed, or new sections adopted at the Annual meeting or special meeting by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members present unless a delegate vote is properly ordered. In that case a two-thirds delegate affirmative vote, as outlined in Article XI, Section 2, would approve the proposed changes provided all proposed changes to the By-Laws were distributed to the membership at least 48 hours prior to the opening of the Annual meeting or special meeting.

Section 2. Also, these By-Laws may be amended, repealed, or new sections adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors at a regular Board of Directors meeting; provided however that written notice must be given to each Director at least fifteen days prior to such meeting or the Board describing the changes proposed and the recommended language of the proposed change.

Such changes shall be valid and binding until the Annual meeting or special meeting, at which time they shall be presented for notification.