

# *Northeast Handspinners Association*

## **BYLAWS**

*(Amendments voted on Nov 2001)*

### **Article I. Membership**

- Sec 1. The seven Membership Districts shall be defined as the geographic boundaries of each of the seven states: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont.
- Sec 2. There shall be the following classes of membership:  
Full membership: Individual or Family  
Newsletter/Group membership
- Sec 3. Full voting membership shall be open to any Handspinner who lives within the Membership District. Full members shall receive reduced admission to NHA sponsored events. Advanced deadline priority shall be given to members for NHA sponsored events as have limited enrollment. There shall be two classes of full voting membership: Individual and Family.
- An Individual membership shall have one vote and receive one copy of each newsletter, announcement and membership directory.
- b) A Family membership shall be two or more family members at the same address who shall have no greater than two votes and receive one copy of each newsletter, announcement and membership directory.
- Sec 4. The Newsletter/Group membership shall be open to those individuals or groups who reside within or outside of the Membership Districts who wish to be affiliated with NHA. A newsletter/Group member shall receive one copy of each newsletter, announcement and membership directory, but shall have no vote.
- Sec 5. The membership year shall be from January 1 to December 31, excepting those choosing a two-year membership and their year will be every other year.
- Sec 6. Dues are payable by January of each year.
- Sec 7. Membership dues are subject to change at a regularly scheduled Board of Governors meeting by a 2/3 majority of the Board of Governors after 30 days written notice of members.
- Sec 8. Events shall have 2 fees; Members and non-Members. Membership may be purchased at an event AFTER entry. Membership is for the remainder of the year but not for said event EXCEPT for new members who join in November or December (meaning to include the Open House or Gathering), their membership shall continue through the following year.

## **Article II. Board of Governors**

- Sec 1. The Board of Governors shall consist of the Executive Board and the Board of Representatives. The Board of Governors shall conduct the business of the Association.
- Sec 2. Each member of the Board of Governors shall receive a current copy of the Constitution and Bylaws of the NHA.
- Sec 3. The Board of Governors shall meet twice a year to conduct business. Meetings shall be in the Spring as convenient and in November on the Saturday of the Open House or the Gathering. Business meetings are open to all NHA members.
- Sec 4. The Board of Governors has the authority to act on any matter except changing the dues between the two regularly scheduled business meetings.
- Sec 5. A quorum shall be greater than one half of the membership of the Board of Governors.
- Sec 6. All heads of standing committees shall be ex officio members of the Board of Governors but shall have no vote.
- Sec 7. The immediate past President shall be an ex officio member of the Board of Governors and shall act as advisor and Parliamentarian, but have no vote.
- Sec 8. Robert's Rule of Order shall prevail at meetings.
- Sec 9. The Board of Governors shall attend the annual meeting.

## **Article III. The Executive Board**

- Sec 1. The officers of the Association shall be the Executive Board and shall consist of a President, VicePresident, Secretary and Treasurer.
- Sec 2. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association and be responsible for directing and coordinating all of the activities of the Association. The President shall call and preside at all meetings of the Board of Governors and the Annual meeting of the Association and perform all other duties consistent with that office.
- Sec 3. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President. The VicePresident shall be responsible for such programs and/or activities as assigned by the President.
- Sec 4. The Secretary shall be the historian of the Association, shall keep minutes of the Association and the Board of Governors meetings and shall perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary.
- Sec 5. The Treasurer shall be the financial custodian of the Association. The Treasurer shall cause all funds to be promptly deposited in one or more accounts as determined by the Board of Governors and shall make only those disbursements as have been properly authorized by the Board of Governors or the President. The Treasurer shall assist the President in writing a proposed budget for the upcoming year to be presented to the Board of Governors at the November business meeting. The Treasurer shall keep a complete record of all receipts and disbursements and shall make regular reports to the Board of Governors and give a report at the Annual meeting.

- Sec 6. Officers will serve two-year terms which shall begin on January 1 of an odd number year and end December 31 of the following even number year.
- Sec 7. The Officers shall be nominated by the Board of Governors and shall be elected by the general membership. Ballots shall be sent to the membership 30 days prior to the election. No ballot postmarked after the last Thursday in September will be counted. Ballots will be counted on the first Friday in November and the results announced at the Annual Meeting.
- Sec 8. No Officer shall serve in the same office for more than two consecutive terms.
- Sec 9. In the event of a resignation or death, the President will fill the vacancy from the Board of Governors for the remainder of the term. In the event of the resignation or death of the President, the Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President for the remainder of the term and appoint a VicePresident from the Board of Governors.

#### **Article IV. Board of Representatives**

- Sec 1. There shall be two representatives from each Membership District (State).
- Sec 2. The Board of Governors shall appoint the Representatives for a two-year term which is to begin on January 1 of an odd number year and end December 31 of an even number year.
- Sec 3. Duties of the Representative shall be:
- To promote NHA within their State.
  - To act as liaison between the Board of Governors and the NHA members from their State.
  - To head the Open House committee when their State is the host.
- Sec 4. A Representative may serve no more than two consecutive terms.
- Sec 5. A Representative who misses two consecutive business meetings and does not send appropriate representation may be asked to resign. The Board of Governors will appoint a replacement Representative.

#### **Article V. Committees**

- Sec 1. The Chairpersons of standing committees shall be appointed by the Board of Governors and shall form committees. Chairpersons shall attend all Board of Governors meetings to report on committee activity. Each Committee is responsible for the year-end report on committee activities and a balance sheet of expenses. Each committee must present in writing a budget for the upcoming fiscal year at the November business meeting.
- Sec 2. The Newsletter Committee shall publish the Newsletter with appropriate announcements, notice of programs, and notify members of the nominees for the Executive Board. It shall solicit articles for publication from the members-at-large. The Newsletter shall be published each March, June, September and December.

Sec 3. The Program Committee shall coordinate all events of the Association. This Committee will review and approve or disapprove all state-sponsored and other events. It shall be the overseer of the biennial Open House.

Sec 4. The Gathering Committee shall plan all activities associated with the biennial Gathering.

Sec 5. The Membership Committee shall keep an up-to-date directory of the membership and notify members when dues are payable. This committee shall prepare a report for the Treasurer as to the amount of dues paid. The Membership Committee shall be responsible to promote the Association at sheep and wool festivals, guild meetings, and other fiber events. It shall endeavor to enlist all handspinnners within the Northeast District.

Sec 6. The Standards and Curriculum Committee shall endeavor to set up standards for excellence in, handspinning and to develop a program to that end. The Committee shall make recommendations as to the criteria to be used for setting up a certification program and shall oversee said program.

Sec 7. The Audit Committee shall consist of three qualified persons who shall audit the financial records of the Association at the end of each fiscal year and report to the Board of Governors.

Sec 8. The Board of Governors shall have the power to create additional committees as the need arises.

### **Article VI. Open House**

The biennial Open House will be held the first Saturday in November of odd numbered years and will be hosted by the Membership District on a rotating schedule.

### **Article VII. Gathering**

The biennial Gathering will be held in November of even numbered years on the first weekend which includes a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

### **Article VIII. Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of the Association will be held at the Open House and the Gathering. The Annual Meeting is open to all members.

### **Article IX. Amendment**

Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed by any voting member at a Board meeting. Notice of consideration of the proposed amendment shall be published in the Newsletter. After consideration at the next Board of Governors meeting, a written ballot shall be sent to the membership. The amendment shall be deemed approved if a 2/3 majority of the ballots returned within 30 days vote to amend.

## **Article X. Restrictions**

These By-laws shall not be altered or amended in such a manner to permit any officer, or representative of the Association to receive any compensation or pecuniary profit from the operations of the Association (except reasonable compensation for services actually rendered) nor to receive any part of the property or assets of the Association upon its dissolution or termination, or otherwise, nor to permit any of the part of the activities of the Association to consist of carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, or of engaging in any political campaign for or against a candidate for public office.