

CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB - January 2017

Article I – Name

This organization shall be known as the Ameraucana Breeders Club.

Article II – Purpose

Section 1. The purpose of this club is to encourage the continued improvement of Ameraucana bantams and large fowl through breeding, exhibition, and dissemination of relevant information.

Section 2. The Ameraucana Breeders Club will not be operated for profit, and no part of any profits or residue from dues or donations will inure to the benefit of any member or individuals.

Article III – Membership

Any person or organization with a sincere interest in the purpose of the Ameraucana Breeders Club may become a member upon payment of the annual dues. However, a member may be expelled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors for acts deemed harmful to the Ameraucana breed and/or this organization.

Article IV – Dues

Annual and or prorated dues shall be set by the Board of Directors. Annual dues shall be payable on January 1st for each calendar year.

Article V – Organization

Section 1. The officers comprising the Board of Directors shall consist of the following:

President
Secretary/Treasurer
District Directors

Section 2. Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the membership to a term of two years beginning on the first day of January following election. Any officer may be a candidate for reelection.

Section 3. Open positions on the Board of Directors shall be filled by a person selected by the President and approved by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Article VI – Districts

Section 1. The United States shall be divided into districts each having a director, elected by majority vote of the membership within such district, who shall serve as an officer on the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The Board of Directors by majority vote may increase, decrease, or rearrange the number of districts as they deem necessary.

Section 3. Members residing in, or citizens of, countries other than the United States of America shall be deemed members of their district of closest geographical proximity.

Section 4. Should the President be unable to fulfill his or her duties, he can appoint a successor from the current Board members. That person must be approved by a majority vote of the Board. If the Board is unable to approve the appointee or the President is unable to appoint a successor, then the order of succession would be as follows:

1. District Director from the same District as the President. If unwilling to accept, it would fall to the next level.
2. District Director with the most years on the Board. If unwilling to accept, it would fall to the next level.
3. District Director with the most consecutive (without gaps or lapses in membership), years of membership in the Club.

BY-LAWS OF THE AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB

Article I - President

The President shall assume the duties of Chairman of the Board of Directors. He shall be responsible for the execution of the Constitution and Bylaws and shall receive and process all proposals for their amendment. The President shall preside at all club meetings, call special meetings if requested by a majority of the Board, and appoint an Election Commissioner for the biennial election. He shall endeavor to see that all officers properly discharge their duties, take an active part in publicity, public relations, and other activities deemed necessary for the betterment of the club.

Article I (a) - Vice President(s)

At the discretion of the Board of Directors, no more than two persons may hold the office of honorary lifetime Vice President at any one time. Persons so nominated by the Board of Directors must be elected by majority vote of the membership at large. A Vice President shall assist the President with his or her duties and conduct club meetings in the President's absence.

Article II – Secretary/Treasurer

The Secretary/Treasurer shall conduct club correspondence, collect and receive all monies due the club, pay all bills undertaken by it, and keep a record of these transactions. The Secretary/Treasurer shall make an annual financial report to the membership via the club bulletin and interim financial reports at meetings at which a quorum of club officers are present. For this purpose a majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be custodian of all club records and be responsible for issuing a quarterly bulletin to all club members detailing current and forthcoming club activities. The Secretary/Treasurer or appointee(s) shall distribute meet awards. The Secretary/Treasurer shall surrender all files, monies, and other club property to the new Secretary/Treasurer at the expiration of his or her term of office in a timely fashion.

Article III - District Directors

The District Directors shall be responsible for actively promoting the club and its' activities, including the placing of an annual District meet within their individual districts. They shall also represent the club, place all district, state, and special meets within their district (Remove "and report the results of meets within their district in the quarterly district report submitted to the secretary/treasurer for publication in the quarterly bulletin" since we no longer require DDs to submit Meet Reports) ,and carrying out details for the National meet when held within their district. Each District Director shall serve as an officer on the Board of Directors, have a vote in determining club policy, assist with coordinating club meets within their district, and take an active part in the recruitment of new members.

Article IV - Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall control the affairs of the club at all times and remove from office any officer, upon majority vote of the Board, for misconduct or failure to adequately perform the duties of his or her office. No member of the Board of Directors shall be a member of, or actively promoting the activities of, another club dedicated to the Ameraucana breed.

Article V - Election Commissioner

Election Commissioner(s) shall be appointed by the President: one for electronic online voting and one for mail-in paper ballots. The Commissioner(s) shall receive all ballots, from the source assigned to them, directly from the membership, tally them, and promptly forward the results (Remove "and the ballots") to the Secretary/Treasurer.

Both Election Commissioners, electronic and paper, are required to provide a full tally of votes for each item in the election. Neither electronic or paper ballots, with voters' names attached, shall be shared with anyone, nor information about how any member voted be shared. All votes shall remain anonymous.

Article VI - Club Meetings

An annual meeting shall take place each year in conjunction with the National meet whenever feasible.

Article VII - Election of Officers

Any paid member in good standing may send in a nomination for candidates for the various offices. All nominees must be members of the Ameraucana Breeders Club at the time of nomination and may not be members of another club dedicated to the Ameraucana breed. Officers shall be elected every two years by means of a ballot sent to each member. Such ballots shall be mailed, or emailed or otherwise distributed via electronic format by the Secretary/Treasurer. Voting may be by mailing a marked ballot or by electronic ballot, within ten days after receipt directly to the Election Commissioner or directly through the online voting application.

When only one member accepts the nomination for any office that person will be elected by acclamation. The election shall be completed and the new officers declared by mid-December and the new officers shall assume office on January 1st.

Article VIII - Club Meets

The Ameraucana Breeders Club shall hold an annual National meet to be rotated clockwise each year among the club districts. The District Director will place the National meet by November 15th for the following year. If it is not placed, with notification to the Board, by that date the Director of the next District in rotation will have 30 days to place the National meet. Should a district be unable to host the National meet in its allotted turn the meet shall pass on to the next district in rotation.

All other Club meets shall be placed by the District Director at the request of any member in accordance with the ABC Meet Policy.

Article IX - Interpretation

A simple majority is required for passage of membership votes and an absolute majority is required for passage of Board of Director votes. Email counts as "Mail". In all cases of dispute arising from interpretation of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Ameraucana Breeders Club, and on all other matters not covered herein, a majority vote of the Board of Directors shall decide the issue. Such decisions shall be declared final.

Article X - Amendments

Any proposal to amend or alter the Constitution and/or Bylaws of the Ameraucana Breeders Club shall be submitted to the President in writing. He or she will in turn submit the proposal to the Board of Directors who will decide by majority vote whether to place the proposal before the membership for a vote. Proposals passed favorably by the Board of Directors shall be included on the ballot with the biennial election of officers to be voted upon by the membership at large. If adopted by a majority of voting members the amendment shall be made effective on January 1st following the election. The new amendment shall be mailed to each member as a supplement to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Club.