

HAMILTON-WENTWORTH 4-H ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I – NAME

This Association shall be known as the Hamilton-Wentworth 4-H Association.

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Association shall be:

- (a) To help plan and co-ordinate a quality 4-H programme, which adheres to the 4-H philosophy and is practical for the members, parents, leaders, etc.
- (b) To provide information and ideas to all leaders, which will be useful in leading a 4-H club.
- (c) To develop and implement policies and programs which further the goals of 4-H in Hamilton-Wentworth.
- (d) To evaluate Hamilton-Wentworth and Provincial 4-H programs.
- (e) To maintain a mutual understanding and a good working relationship with the 4-H community and the Ontario 4-H Council.
- (f) To promote and market 4-H as an organization for youth.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

- (a) All 4-H Leaders in Hamilton-Wentworth in the current year will automatically become members of the Association.
- (b) Any 4-H non-leader volunteer may become a member of the Association by being appointed or elected as a Director and/or an Officer of the Association.
- (c) All members of the Board of Directors over the age of 18 must be screened, which will include an interview, reference checks and a Criminal Records check for Vulnerable Sector.

ARTICLE IV – STRUCTURE OF THE ASSOCIATION

- (a) There shall be elected from the membership at large up to nine (9) members to serve as the Directors of the Association and up to ten (10) non-voting Junior Representatives. The purpose of the Junior Representative is to bring forth ideas and discussion and to experience the process of a working Board of Directors.
- (b) The Executive Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Past Chairperson.
- (c) The Board of Directors shall elect from within itself a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson annually at the first board meeting after the Annual General Meeting.
- (d) The Treasurer and the Secretary will be appointed by the Board of Directors annually at the Annual General Meeting.
- (e) The term of office of all Directors of the Association, with the exception of the Junior Representatives, shall be three (3) years, with the option of serving a second term of three (3) years. If a Director becomes a member of the Executive Committee, this tenure will be extended to meet the requirements of the position.

- (f) The term of office of all Junior Representatives of the Association shall be one (1) year, with the option of serving additional one (1) year terms.
- (g) No Director shall serve more than six (6) consecutive years.
- (h) A quorum is based on four (4) voting members including at least two (2) Board of Directors members.
- (i) In the event of an office becoming vacant (for whatever reason), the remaining Directors may appoint a substitute or cause an election to be held to fill the vacancy until the next Hamilton-Wentworth annual general meeting.

ARTICLE V – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- (a) The Past Chairperson shall provide guidance and insight to the Association.
- (b) The Chairperson shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Association and shall preside at meetings.
- (c) The Vice-Chairperson shall assume the duties of the Chairperson in his/her absence.
- (d) The Secretary is responsible for internal and external communications and recording of the minutes of all meetings, with copies being forwarded to all Directors and Junior Representatives.
- (e) The Treasurer shall maintain all accounts of the Association and prepare an annual budget for approval of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

- (a) The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held within the first ninety (90) days of the new year.
- (b) The Board of Directors shall meet at least four (4) times per year.
- (c) Each Board member shall have one (1) vote, which shall be by show of hands or secret ballot.

ARTICLE VII – CONSTITUTION

- (a) The Constitution will be reviewed annually and dated as such.
- (b) The Constitution may be amended, repealed or re-enacted at any Annual Meeting by a 2/3 vote in the affirmative of the members present.
- (c) A copy of the proposed Constitution and date of the Annual Meeting shall be sent to all members of the Association two (2) weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VIII – AFFILIATION

Hamilton-Wentworth 4-H Association shall be an affiliated member of the Ontario 4-H Council. All regulations as set forth by the Ontario 4-H Council shall become part of this constitution.

ARTICLE IX – FINANCIAL OPERATION

- (a) The Association shall be carried on without purpose of gain for its members, and any profits or other gains to the Association shall be used solely to promote its objectives.

- (b) All applications for grants, bursaries, sponsorship or any similar financial awards must be reported to the board of directors in a timely manner.

ARTICLE X – DISSOLUTION CLAUSE

Upon dissolution, all remaining assets of the Hamilton-Wentworth 4-H Association after payment of its liabilities must be equally distributed between the Ancaster Agricultural Society, Rockton Agricultural Society, and the Binbrook Agricultural Society.

Effective Date: February 14, 2018