

The Columbus Stompers

Articles of Organization and Bylaws

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be The Columbus Stompers. The organization shall be not-for-profit social and service in nature.

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to:

1. The Columbus Stompers will promote country western dancing, activities and music to all persons without discrimination in any form. The Columbus Stompers has been established as a permanent organization seeking to enrich the local community by promoting such activities.
2. The Columbus Stompers will coordinate fundraising activities and make donations to local charitable organizations, notwithstanding any other provision of these ByLaws, which adhere to the goals and philosophies of The Columbus Stompers.
3. The Columbus Stompers will provide for an opportunity for the social and dancing interchange of individual members as well as to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information among its members.
4. The Columbus Stompers may engage in any activity that furthers its purposes. No part of the net earnings of The Columbus Stompers shall inure to the benefit of any Director of The Columbus Stompers, Officer of The Columbus Stompers, Member of The Columbus Stompers, or any private individual (except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for The Columbus Stompers affecting one or more of its purposes).
5. No substantial part of the activities of The Columbus Stompers shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and The Columbus Stompers shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publication or distribution of statements) any political campaigning on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Article III – Fiscal Year

1. The fiscal year of the organization shall run from November 1 through October 31.

2. Any reference in this document to “year”, or calendar related items (such as: “annual dues”, or “term of one year”, etc., shall be understood to mean “fiscal year”, or “concurrent to the fiscal year”, etc.

Article IV – Membership

3. Membership in this organization is open to any person, of legal age, as defined by the State of Ohio, interested in country/western music and dance.

4. Members are required to pay dues (as outlined in Article IV) to be considered a member in good standing.

5. Member’s names, addresses, phone numbers and email addressed will be made available to members only.

6. Honorary memberships may be awarded to those persons nominated and approved by the general membership. Honorary members are non-voting members.

7. Benefits of membership.

A. Receive a Columbus Stompers membership T-shirt.

B. Members in good standing are eligible to participate with the performance dance teams. Separate dance team rules will apply to the performance teams.

C. Opportunity to travel with the organization to hoe-downs and other club-related excursions.

D. Opportunity to raise funds to help defray the cost of above mentioned travel.

8. Members are encouraged to participate in the various social and service activities of the organization.

Article V – Dues

1. Dues will be assessed per fiscal year

2. The Executive Board will determine dues on an annual basis.

3. Dues will not be assessed to honorary members.

A. Dues will be prorated based on when a person becomes a member.

B. Dues shall be assessed at a rate of 75% of the set dues during the second quarter of the year.

C. Dues shall be assessed at a rate of 50% of the set dues during the third and fourth quarter of the year.

D. Should a change in fiscal year be necessitated, the Executive Board shall define the number of months which constitute each quarter of the year, assuming a non-standard year is created by said change in fiscal year.

E. A person who joins the organization at the reduced rate shall not receive a complimentary membership T-shirt for said year.

F. The color of the member t-shirt shall be decided by a vote of the members present at the same member meeting at which elections take place; and shall be different from the previous three years' colors.

G. All Members in Good Standing, including those who are not eligible to receive a complimentary t-shirt, shall have the option of purchasing a member T-shirt, or additional member t-shirts, at a cost determined by the Executive Board, which should be at least enough to cover the cost of said t-shirt.

Article VI – Meetings

1. Officers' Meetings.

A. Officers Meetings should be held on a monthly basis.

B. In no instance shall a period of more than two consecutive months go by without an Officers Meeting.

C. The President of the Organization shall determine the time and location of the Officers Meetings.

D. The Officers Meetings may be combined with the Executive Board Meetings.

E. The Officers Meetings may not be combined with the General Membership Meetings; but may be held before or after the General Membership Meeting.

2. Executive Board Meetings.

A. Executive Board Meetings should be held on a monthly basis.

B. In no instance shall a period of more than two consecutive months go by without an Executive Board Meeting.

C. The Officers of the Organization shall determine the time and location of the Executive Board Meetings.

D. The Executive Board Meetings may be combined with the Officers Meetings.

E. The Executive Board Meetings may not be combined with the General Membership Meetings; but may be held before or after the General Membership Meeting.

3. General Membership Meetings.

A. General Membership Meetings should be held on a monthly basis.

B. In no instance shall a period of more than two consecutive months go by without a General Membership Meeting.

C. The Executive Board of the organization shall determine the time and location of the General Membership Meetings.

D. The General Membership Meeting shall not be combined with either the Officers Meeting or the Executive Board Meeting

Article VII – Quorums

A quorum, for the purpose of conducting business at a general membership meeting, shall be defined as a minimum of five members in good standing. At least three of these members must be officers.

Section VIII – Parliamentary Procedure

Robert’s Rules of Order will govern the conduct of all meetings.

Article IX – Voting

All matters before the organization, which require a vote, shall be carried by simple majority present with the exception of expulsion from membership and dissolution of the organization. Voting will be done by voice; however, voting will be done by secret ballot at the request of one member, in which case, the Executive Board will appoint an impartial group of three (3) members to count the ballots. Each member shall have one (1) vote. Honorary members shall have no vote.

Article X – Executive Board

1. Composition – The Executive Board will consist of the following officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Standing Committee Chairs.

2. The officers shall be properly nominated by the membership and elected by a simple majority of those attending the membership meeting that shall be held on the 2nd Thursday of the month of September. Should unforeseen circumstances prohibit a meeting on said Thursday, the Executive Board, at its discretion, may choose to hold the elections on another date that shall fall within the month of September. A candidate must be a member in good standing for at least a period of one-year. Term of office shall run

concurrent with the fiscal year. Should a change in the fiscal year take place, the term of office runs for the length of the fiscal year even if it is less than, or more than 12 actual months. However, no term of office may exceed 24 actual months; in that event the Executive Board shall decide the term limit, and provide for an interim election of officers.

3. Vacancy in Office – In the case of a vacancy in any office, other than President, the Executive Board shall appoint a member, in good standing, to fulfill the term of the vacated office. In the case of vacancy in the office of President, the Vice President shall assume the duties of the President, and the previously prescribed process shall fill the vacated position of vice president.

4. Removal from office-

A. An Executive Board member may be removed from an elected/appointed position for failure to meet minimum attendance at meetings and functions. Minimum attendance shall be defined as below 60% attendance.

B. An executive Board member may be removed from an elected/appointed position by not fulfilling the responsibilities designated to the specific position.

C. A motion to remove an elected officer must be moved and approved by a two-thirds vote of those in attendance at an official membership meeting. If fewer than half of the organization members are in attendance at the meeting, a ballot vote of more than half of the general membership being in agreement with the motion for removal must then be taken to remove said officer. The petition must be signed by a minimum of one-third of the members in good standing. If the petition is successful, a vote by ballot of the general membership must then be taken and if more than two-thirds of the members in good standing vote to remove, the officer shall be removed from office.

Article XI – Duties of the Executive Board

1. Determine policy for the organization.
2. Oversee the enforcement of these bylaws.
3. Conduct business on behalf on the organization.

Article XII – Duties of the Officers

1. President

A. The President shall be the official representative of the organization.

B. Shall be responsible for holding and chairing all meeting of the organization.

- C. Assumes the responsibility for the day-to-day business of the organization.
- D. Shall be the coordinator of the annual hoe-down of the organization.
- E. Shall appoint chairs to all committees. Committee chairs must be approved by a majority of the Executive Board.
- F. Shall serve as an ad hoc member of all committees.
- G. Shall attend all executive Board and membership meetings on the organization.

2. Vice President

- A. Shall assume the duties of the President in his/her absence. Assumes the office of President in the event the President cannot fill his/her term of office.
- B. Shall be responsible for the publications of the organization.
- C. Shall attend all Executive Board and membership meetings.

3. Secretary

- A. Shall record the official minutes of all meetings of the organization and report them to the club at regular membership meetings.
- B. Shall keep a record of attendance from all meetings and appropriate events of the organization.
- C. Shall compile a phone, email, and mailing list of organization members.
- D. In conjunction with the President, is responsible for all correspondence for the organization. Maintains all pertinent records and files of the organization.
- E. Shall attend all Executive Board and membership meetings.

4. Treasurer

- A. Shall be responsible for the official financial records and required filings of the organization and report to the membership at regular membership meetings.
- B. Shall be responsible for depositing organization dues and all income that may be generated by the organization.
- C. Shall be responsible for the disbursement of organization expenses upon approval of the Executive Board.
- D. Shall attend all executive Board and membership meetings.

Article XIII – Committees

1. Standing committees of the organization shall include:
 - A. Dance
 - B. Website
 - C. Fundraising
 - D. Publicity
2. Additional committees may be added to fulfill requirements at specific times for specific needs, including, but not limited to the annual hoedown of the organization.
3. Committee Chairs
 - A. Must be a member in good standing. Shall be appointed by the President, but must be approved by a majority of the Executive Board.
 - B. Shall be members of the Executive Board.
 - C. Shall serve for a period of one year.
 - D. Shall report to the membership at the general membership meetings.
 - E. Shall attend all executive Board and membership meetings.

Article XIV – Duties of Committee Chairs

1. Dance
 - A. Shall be responsible for organizing dance performances of the Columbus Stompers.
 - B. Shall coordinate the performance dance team including selection, rehearsals, performances, choreographers, appropriate costumes, etc. The Dance Chair must obtain funding approval from the Executive Board or at a membership meeting. Shall develop and distribute on a yearly basis, Performance Team Rules and Guidelines.
 - C. Shall be responsible for selecting appropriate music for performances and general activities.
 - D. Shall coordinate dance lessons that are associated with any Columbus Stomper related activity. This includes obtaining dance instructors.

E. Inform the executive Committee and membership of changes in or to the program area.

F. Shall attend all Executive board and membership meetings.

2. Website

A. Shall be responsible for the maintenance of the official Columbus Stompers Website. This includes posting any applicable information, i.e. performances, dance lessons, travel, related activities, links, etc.

B. Coordinate Columbus Stompers Website with IAGLCWDC or other affiliated organization's websites.

C. Obtain releases from all persons who may have information or photos posted on the website.

D. Inform the Executive Committee and membership of changes in or to the program area.

E. Shall attend all Executive Board and membership meetings.

3. Fundraising

A. Shall coordinate all fundraising activities. Includes developing new programs, ideas, and efforts to raise funds for the good of the organization and the charitable organizations that are selected to be benefactors of the organization.

B. Coordinate with the Treasurer to keep detailed records of funds raised, and the disbursement of related funds.

C. Contact potential charitable organizations that best fit the philosophy and goal of the organization.

D. Shall attend all Executive Board and membership meetings.

4. Publicity

A. Coordinate all press releases and promotional activities for the organization.

B. Establish and maintain communication with media.

C. Develop and implement a program to increase the awareness of the Columbus Stompers and increase membership.

D. Bring new promotional programs and ideas to the Executive Board.

E. Shall attend all executive Board and membership meetings.

Article XV – Official Logo

The Columbus Stompers have adopted an official logo. If a new logo is proposed, a majority vote of the members in good standing must approve said logo.

Article XVI – Dissolution and Distribution of Assets

A motion to the general membership to dissolve the organization may come only from the Executive Board, which motion will have been previously considered and carried by two-thirds vote of the Executive Board. The motion must be carried by two-thirds written ballot of the general members in good standing. Upon the dissolution, disbanding, or other termination of the organization, all the remaining assets of the organization, after final expenses as determined by the Executive Board are paid, shall be distributed by the Executive Board to such organization(s) as may qualify as charitable deductions for income tax purposes under the Income Tax Laws of the United States in such proportions as the Executive Board may determine. In no event shall any part of the assets be returned to or distributed among any officer, member of the Executive Board, member, or any individual connected with the organization directly or indirectly.

Article XVII – Disclaimer

1. Indemnification – The organization shall indemnify all present and former officers against any liability and any necessary expenses actually incurred in connection with the defense of any action, suit, or proceeding in which they, or any of them, are made parties or party by reason of being or having been officers, except for willful misconduct in the performance of his/her duties. If an officer incurs liability as a result of following the advice of legal counsel selected the Board, he/she shall likewise be indemnified.

2. Personal Liability – The members and officers of the organization shall not be personally liable for any debt, liability or obligation of the organization. All persons, corporations or other entities extending credit to, contracting with, or having any claim against, the organization may look only to the funds and property of the organization for the payment of any such contract or claim, or for the payment of any debt, damages, judgment or decree, or of any money that may otherwise become due or payable to them from the organization. A majority of the Executive Board is required to indebted the organization.

Article XVIII – Ratification

These Articles of Organization and By-laws must be approved by a majority vote of members in good standing. Once approved, these Articles of Organization and By-laws shall replace all other existing articles of organization, by-laws, or rules of the organization.

Article XIX – Amendments

By-laws may be changed by a majority vote of those in attendance at a general membership meeting and must be affirmed by a majority of the members in good standing. Proposed By-laws must be presented to the membership at least fourteen (14) days prior to an actual vote.

Approved by unanimous vote February 14, 2001, Columbus, Ohio.