

**TEXAS STATE ASSOCIATION of the
FAMILY CAMPERS AND RVer's/
NATIONAL CAMPERS AND HIKERS ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
MAY 2008**

ARTICLE I: NAME

Section 1. The name of this association shall be Texas State Association of the Family Campers and RVer's/ National Campers and Hikers Association.

ARTICLE II: COLORS AND SUMBOLS

Section 1. The colors of this Association shall be red, white, and blue.

Section 2. The symbol of this Association shall be the Bluebonnet.

ARTICLE III: PURPOSE

Section 1. The purpose of this Association shall be to educate and assist the member Chapters of Family Campers and RVer's/ National Campers and Hikers Association in the preservation and conservation of the beauties of nature in the State of Texas.

- A. To educate and assist the members of this Association in a campaign of safety in outdoor living.
- B. To promote improvements in public camping and hiking areas where the need exists.

Section 2. The objectives of this Association are:

- A. To promote among members and other users of our public recreational areas a sense of responsibility in such matters as the proper disposal of waste materials, the prevention of forest fires, and the proper use of public recreational facilities.
- B. To cooperate with other organizations working for the conservation of our natural resources.
- C. To provide a medium for receiving and disseminating up-to-date information concerning Chapter activities, national news, conservation, and other ideas that will tend to bring our Chapters into a closer contact with one another.

ARTICLE IV: AFFILIATION

Section 1. The Texas State Association of Family Campers and RVer's/ National Campers and Hikers Association, Incorporated; a non-profit, volunteer, national organization of campers and hikers.

Section 2. Any reference of the "Association" in the by-laws refers to the Texas State Association of the Family Campers and RVer's/National Campers and Hikers Association.

ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in this Association shall be divided into three classes; (A) Chapter membership, (B) Members-at-large, and (C) Honorary.

Section 2. A Chapter membership shall consist of a Chapter in the State of Texas, chartered by the Family Campers and RVer's/National Campers and Hikers Association which has ratified the Texas State Constitution and By-laws. Each member of every Chapter must be a member in good standing with FCRV/NCHA.

Section 3. A Member-at-Large is an individual or family in good standing with the Family Campers and RVer's/National Campers and Hikers Association, and not within an active member Chapter.

Section 4. An honorary membership may be conferred at the discretion of the Board of Directors. This membership may be granted to any group or individual who has performed unusual and/or outstanding service to the State Association.

Section 5. The period of membership for the Chapter and Members-at-Large shall coincide with the fiscal year of the Association.

ARTICLE VI: VOTING PRIVILEGES

Section 1. Each family (spouses) or individual adult paying membership dues through a Chapter and TSA shall be eligible to vote for TSA officers, Constitutional changes, and By-Law changes. Each Member-at-Large family or individual paying dues to TSA shall be eligible to vote for TSA officers, Constitutional changes, and By-Law changes. Individual members shall receive one vote and family memberships shall receive two votes. Individual Members-at-Large shall receive one vote and family Members-at-Large shall receive two votes. Individuals or families holding membership in more than one Chapter shall vote in the Chapter paying their TSA membership dues.

Section 2. Committee chairpersons do not have a vote other than authorized in Article VI Section 1 above.

Section 3. Members-at-Large-members shall have voting privileges through their Delegates-at-large. (See Article X, Section 2.)

Section 4. Honorary membership shall have no voting privileges.

ARTICLE VII: FINANCES

Section 1. The Texas State Association of FCRV/NCHA shall be financed by the following sources of income:

- A. Initiation fees from joining Chapters, plus an annual dues, payable by November 1 of each year.
- B. Members-at-Large annual dues payable by November 1 each year.
- C. State Rally/Rallies shall be held each year, from which the State Association treasury will receive the balance over and above the expenses of the Rally.
- D. Other money-raising projects as the Association deems necessary.

Section 2. The Texas State Association is expressly prohibited from assessing any Chapter or individual FCRV/NCHA members that are not covered in Section 1.

Section 3. No part of the net earnings of the Association shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to, its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the Association shall be authorized and empowered to make reasonable compensation for services rendered, and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article III.

Section 4. The Texas State Association shall maintain and support a Scholarship Fund to be administered as a separate Association.

ARTICLE VIII: OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

Section 1. The offices of the Texas State Association of FCRV/NCHA shall be (A) a President, (B) a Vice-President, (C) a Secretary, (D) a Treasurer, and (E) an Advisor. These officers shall be active camping members in good standing and serve without compensation.

Section 2. The President shall be the Chief Executive officer of the Association, and Chairman of the Board of Directors. The President shall preside at all meetings of the membership, and at meetings of the Board of Directors. The President shall see that all orders and resolutions of the Board of Directors are put into effect. The President shall appoint the Chairman and members of all standing committees. The President shall have the power to appoint a qualified member to fill vacancies arising in standing committees. The President shall have the general powers and duties vested in that office.

Section 3. The Vice-President shall serve in the capacity of the President in the absence of the President. The Vice-President shall have the general powers and duties usually vested in that office. The Vice-President shall be responsible for planning and coordinating any TSA Rally.

Section 4. The TSA Secretary shall be responsible for keeping the minutes at all TSA meetings and reading these minutes at any meeting of the TSA when requested to do so by the presiding officer. Distribute copies of all minutes to members of the Executive Board and Bluebonnet Banner editor to be published. Make a record of the roll call and have custody of these records at all times during the tenure of the office, with the understanding that all such records belong to the TSA and must be surrendered to the new TSA Secretary, or to the TSA president upon their resignation of that office. The Secretary shall file the reports of the Standing Committee Chairpersons and special committees after they are presented and approved. Have a copy of the current TSA Constitution and Bylaws available at all TSA meetings for ready reference. Send out notices of regular and special meetings to the Executive Board and Bluebonnet Banner editor to be published. Receive and record all the membership dues from Chapters and Members-at-Large. Prepare and distribute to all Chapters and Members-at-Large voting material for the TSA election of officers and amendment changes to the Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall have custody of all funds, securities, and assets of the Association except the Scholarship Fund. The Treasurer shall be responsible for collecting all dues and keeping full and accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the Association. The Treasurer shall pay current operating expenses which have been approved by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall be audited yearly. The Treasurer, with the approval of the Executive Board may allow Committee Chairpersons to control funds for their Committee. These Chairpersons must report fund activities to the Board of Directors with a written financial statement to the Treasurer.

Section 6. The Advisor shall serve in the capacity of a general advisor of the Association and to the Executive Board. The Advisor shall be any active past officer selected by the newly elected President with the approval of the Executive Board. They shall serve as Parliamentarian.

Section 7. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer; the President shall appoint for the remainder of the term, a successor, to be approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 8. The Executive Board/Committee shall have the responsibility of removing from office any elected officer who is not performing his/her duties as prescribed in the constitution.

ARTICLE IX: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Each member Chapter may submit a list of nominees for the four elected officers to the Nominating Committee on or before August 1 of each election year. Not later than May 1, the President shall appoint a nominating committee of five members, and shall designate one of these members as Chairman. The nominating committee shall prepare a ballot containing a slate of nominees, including each nominee submitted by each member Chapter, not later than September 1.

Section 2. The Secretary shall furnish each Chapter and Member-at-Large representative with official ballots and tally sheets upon which shall be recorded the election results. This tally sheet shall be signed by the Chapter President and Secretary; or for Members-at-Large, by the Members-at-Large representative; and returned to a Tally Committee Chairman designated by the President, not later than the first of November. The Tally sheets will be maintained until disposal is authorized by the Board of Directors.

Members-at-Large shall send their vote to the designated members-at-large representative; the tally sheets for members-at-large shall be returned in the same manner.

The Tally Committee shall immediately notify each candidate by mail of the election results.

Section 3. Each Chapter shall conduct its own method of determining the Chapter representative to serve on the Association Board of Directors. If the selected Chapter representative of a Chapter is not in attendance at the TSA meeting, then the senior Chapter member attending the meeting may be the representative of that Chapter. The senior member is the TSA member with the longest seniority in FCRV/NCHA as shown on their FCRV registration card. Their FCRV card must be shown for verification.

Section 4. The newly elected officers shall be installed at the State Rally following the election, and shall assume their duties immediately following the installation.

Section 5. All officers shall be elected by a plurality vote for the term of two (2) years, or until their successors are elected and installed. Each of the officers shall be eligible to succeed themselves in their respective office for one additional term.

ARTICLE X: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall be the governing body of the Association.

Section 2: The Board of Directors shall consist of the following: The Executive Board, the Advisor, the Texas State Director or Assistant State Director, and one delegate from each Chapter and no more than two Members-at-Large delegates appointed by the State Director.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall hold such meetings as they deem necessary, but not less than one a year.

Section 4: A quorum consisting of 60% of the Executive Board and 40% of the additional Board of Directors must be present to conduct business at any TSA meeting. Each member of the Board of Directors shall be entitled to one vote.

Section 5: Actions of the Board of Directors require the vote of a majority of the board members present at any regular or special meeting. For a special meeting, 30 days written notice, either by regular or email notification must be given.”

ARTICLE XI: EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. An Executive Board consisting of the four elected officers of the Association and the Advisor shall be empowered to act for the Board of Directors when and where quick decisions must be made.

Section 2. The State Director will meet with the Executive Board in an advisory capacity.

ARTICLE XII: COMMITTEES

Section 1. The President may appoint a chairman for each of the following committees: Publicity, Information and Education (Bluebonnet Banner Editor), Conservation, Legislation, TSA Scholarship Fund, Teens, Self-Propelled Campers (Hiking, Biking, Canoeing, etc.), Chaplain, Retirees, Communication, DAT, and Youth.

The term of service for each committee chairman or committee members shall coincide with the election of the Association. Any member serving on any appointed committee shall be eligible for reappointment by the newly-elected President. No member shall serve as chairman of more than one standing committee at any time.

Section 2. Special committees may be appointed by the President as they deem necessary.

ARTICLE XIII: MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings of the Association shall be held annually, the day and hour to be fixed by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Special meetings of the Association may be called by the Executive Board upon notification of all members of the Association.

Section 3. The rules of order for all meetings of the Association shall be in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE XIV: FISCAL YEAR

Section 1. The fiscal year of the Association shall be from December 1 to November 30.

ARTICLE XV: AMENDING OF CONSTITUTION

Section 1. The Constitution of the organization may be adopted and/or changed by a majority vote of the TSA membership balloting on an issue with prior approval of the Texas State Director.

Section 2. Official ballots showing the proposed change or changes shall be prepared by the Association and mailed to each Chapter with the instructions for proper use.

Section 3. The Association shall furnish each Chapter with an official tally sheet upon which the proposed amendment vote will be recorded. This tally sheet shall be signed by the Chapter President and Secretary, and returned to the Association Tally Committee Chairman within forty-five (45) days following postmarked date of mailing out ballots.

Section 4. The President shall appoint a committee of not less than three (3) members to act as tellers, to make an official count of the votes. The results of this count shall be recorded on the books of the Association and each Chapter notified thereof.

ARTICLE XVI: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Section 1. To avoid any possibility of criticism, the public display of alcoholic beverages shall not be permitted at meetings of the Texas State Association.

ARTICLE XVII: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Section 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles, the Association shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in the furtherance of the purpose specified in Article III of this document.

ARTICLE XVIII: POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Section 1. No substantial part of the activities of this Association shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Association shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for office. This committee may inform the membership of pending legislation or public issues without comment, or if a factual representation is made for all sides of any issue.

ARTICLE XIX: DISBANDMENT OF CHAPTER

Section 1. Upon dissolution of the Association, the Executive Committee, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the Association, shall dispose of all assets exclusively for the purpose of the Association, or transfer to the Family Campers and RVer's/National Campers and Hikers Association Scholarship Fund if it at that time qualifies as an exempt, organization under Section 501 (C)3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law. If the Scholarship Fund of FCRV/NCHA does not qualify, the Executive Board will donate to such organization or organizations operating as a charitable, educational, or scientific exempt organization under I.R.S. Section 501 (C)3.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I: ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section 1. The Bylaws of this Association may be changed at any Board meeting by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The regular order of business at each Board of Directors Meeting shall normally be as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Prayer
3. Pledge
4. Roll Call
5. Introduction of guests, visitors, new members
6. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting
7. Vice-President's Report
8. Secretary's Report
9. Treasurer's Report
10. State Director's Report
11. Reports of Standing Committees
12. Reports of Special Committees
13. Old Business
14. New Business and Agenda items
15. Report of election of officers (Biennial meeting only)
16. Installation of officers (Biennial meeting only)
17. Adjournment