

OHIO FALCONRY ASSOCIATION (OFA) BYLAWS

Adopted 07/2025

ARTICLE 1 - PURPOSE

1.1 The Ohio Falconry Association (OFA) is a nonprofit organization that provides information and opportunities to its members in an effort to promote the practice of true falconry and the conservation of raptors.

ARTICLE 2 - MEMBERSHIP

2.1 Regular Membership is available to individuals of good moral character that possess a current permit to practice falconry in Ohio. Associate Membership is available to individuals of good moral character who do not meet the requirements for Regular Membership, but have an interest in falconry and wish to take a positive role in OFA activities. The OFA does not restrict its membership, regardless of gender, race, or religion.

2.2 OFA Membership can be denied/revoked by a vote of the regular voting membership if a prospective member or member fails to conduct his or herself in a manner that is in the best interest of the OFA and/or falconry.

2.3 Annual Membership dues are established and revised by a vote of the Regular Membership. Membership runs from September thru September. Paid dues are a requirement of Membership.

ARTICLE 3 - OFFICERS

3.1 An Executive Committee will consist of at least four officers, that will be of Master or general class that are also members of The North American Falconry Association and hold a current Ohio Falconry license. The member must also have been a member in good standing for at least one year prior to the election to seek office

This committee includes President, Vice-president, Secretary, and Treasurer will be elected annually at the fall meeting for one year terms. There are no term limitations. The President of the OFA serves as the Chairperson of the Executive Committee. The purpose of the Executive Committee is to carry out the basic functions of the OFA, i.e. financial, correspondence, membership, etc.

3.2 The general duties of the individual officers are as follows: President - Oversee the affairs of the OFA and preside over its meetings. Vice-president - Serve in absence of the President and assist the President in OFA matters. Secretary - Communication with membership, and dissemination of falconry and OFA information to interested parties. Treasurer - Manage the financial resources of the OFA and collect membership dues. Editor -Manage the OFA's written records, meeting minutes, write articles for newsletters, magazines, etc.

3.3 The functions of officers may be combined if needed.

3.4 The OFA may elect special officers, e.g Political Liaison, whenever necessary. The President, or presiding Vice- president can create special committees and appoint individuals to special tasks, e.g. Newsletter/ magazine Editor, as necessary.

3.5 Members of the Executive Committee and its designees may be reimbursed from the Treasury for reasonable, routine OFA expenses, e.g. postage, letterhead, patches, picnic supplies etc.(excluding transportation and phone charges), with appropriate receipts. With approval of the Regular Membership, special reimbursements to individuals and donations to organizations of interest to OFA may be granted.

ARTICLE 4 - MEMBERSHIP COMMUNICATION

4.1 The Executive Committee will maintain an Official OFA Membership mailing list consisting of dues paid members. Only current members will receive OFA correspondence.

4.2 The Executive Committee will insure that the Membership is provided with written or electronic prior notice of OFA activities and pertinent state and federal falconry issues, as needed. Such communication may be done via regular or intermittent newsletters and/ or other written or electronic forms by any or all members of the Executive Committee. Fax, e-mail, and telephone, may be used as necessary.

ARTICLE 5 - MEETINGS

5.1 Unless circumstances prohibit, at least one meeting of the OFA will be held each year. The purpose of meetings will be to allow members to attend to the official business of the OFA, keep current on falconry related issues, display their hawks, and socialize with other falconers.

5.2 Whenever possible, one meeting will be held in the fall in the form of the OFA Picnic and another will be held in the Spring.

5.3 Business at all official meetings of the OFA will be carried out in accordance with the current revision of Rules of Order as applicable and not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE 6 - VOTING

6.1 Any Regular Member that holds a master or general falconry permit is eligible to vote on issues considered by the OFA.

6.2 Depending upon the circumstances, voting may be carried out in person and/or via emailed ballot. Regular Members in attendance at a given meeting will constitute a voting quorum. A voting quorum via emailed ballot is constituted by those Regular Members that return ballots.

6.3 A simple majority of a voting quorum is required to approve/pass a motion, regardless of the voting method, i.e, in person or via email.

ARTICLE 7 - AMENDMENT & DISSOLUTION OF BYLAWS

7.1 The Bylaws may be amended or dissolved at any time by a majority of a voting quorum of the regular voting membership.

ARTICLE 8 - DISSOLUTION OF OFA

8.1 The OFA may be dissolved at any time by a majority of a voting quorum of the regular voting membership.