

BY-LAWS and POLICIES of The Nebraska Fur Harvesters

As revised September 1992, April 5, 1998, September 2011, September 2019

ARTICLE I – NAME

BY-LAW 1 – 1 – NAME

The name of the organization shall be the Nebraska Fur Harvesters.

BY-LAW 1 –2 – PRINCIPAL OFFICE

The principal office of the organization and the mailing address of the organization shall be that of the Treasurer.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

BY-LAW 2 – 1 – PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be:

1. To preserve and protect the right to trap and harvest ~~for bearers~~ **furbearers** of the ~~stage~~ **state** of Nebraska, within the legal limits of the law, so as to prevent our wildlife from ever becoming endangered through mismanagement of the resource.
2. To actively participate in the growth and direction of the organization.
3. To provide guidance and direction to its members.
4. To give proper trapping instruction to its members.
5. To promote good ethics in trapping.
6. To be concerned with other groups, so as to better relationships and strengthen our own.
7. To educate the public on the value and need for trapping as a management tool.
8. To promote and support the use of wild fur as a sound, economical, environmental practice.
9. To work with the appropriate state and federal appointed wildlife agencies to make and understand better laws concerning our wildlife.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

BY-LAW 3 – 1 – MEMBERSHIP

The right to participate in this organization will not be limited to the trapper, but will be open to all interested persons or groups.

ARTICLE IV – NON-PROFIT STATUS

BY-LAW 4 – 1 – NON-PROFIT STATUS

The Nebraska Fur Harvesters shall be a non-profit organization.

ARTICLE V – GOVERNMENT

BY-LAW 5 – 1 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS

The government of this organization shall be vested in the Board of Directors consisting of all current elected officials, immediate past president, district directors, and not more than three directors at large.

BY-LAW 5 – 2 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONTROL

The Board of Directors shall have control of the management of the organization, subject to the will of the membership.

ARTICLE VI – ELECTIONS

BY-LAW 6 – 1 – ELECTED OFFICIALS

Elected officials shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Legislative Representative, Public Relations Director, NTA Director, and FTA Director.

BY-LAW 6 – 2 – TERMS

Beginning in 2011, and odd-numbered ~~year~~ **years**, and continuing onward, the election of officers of President, Treasurer, NTA Director, Legislative Representative shall occur. The following year, 2012, and even-numbered ~~year in can~~ **years** and continuing onward, the election of Vice-President, Secretary, FTA Director, and Public-Relations Director shall occur. This pattern will continue with four of the officers being elected on even years and the other four in odd numbered years, with terms of office for all positions being two years in length. These elections will occur at the fall meeting of the Nebraska Fur Harvesters.

BY-LAW 6 – 3 – TERM LIMITS

There shall be no limit to the number of terms an officer may serve.

BY-LAW 6 – 4 – NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A special meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held at the discretion of the President, and, at such time, shall serve as a nominating committee for elected positions.

BY-LAW 6 – 5 – ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS

At least one or more persons shall be chosen for election to ~~teach~~ each office by the Board of Directors, and in addition, one or more may be chosen by the general membership, to be voted on accordingly.

BY-LAW 6 – 6 – VOTING

Voting may be done by secret ballot or a show of hands, each position to be voted on separately. New officers will take office at the end of the meeting.

BY-LAW 6 – 7 – VOTING RIGHTS

Only members in good standing, dues current, may vote. Any ballot may be contested ~~in~~ and either verified or denied by the existing Treasurer. In the event that the Treasurer is absent or in direct conflict of interest, the Vice-President shall determine the voter's eligibility.

ARTICLE VII – DISTRICT DIRECTORS

BY-LAW 7 – 1 – APPOINTING DIRECTORS

District Directors shall be appointed by the President. In the event that more than one individual expresses an interest in filling ~~it~~ ~~directors~~ ~~petition~~ a director's position, an election by the Board of Directors will be held ~~to~~ by either open or secret ballot, with a simple majority determining the winner or appointment of Co-Directors, if both interested individuals are in agreement.

BY-LAW 7 – 2 – DISTRICT DIRECTOR TERMS

District Director shall serve until they are elected to an official office or for a term of not more than five years, unless there is no one else interested in the position.

BY-LAW 7-3 – NEBRASKA FUR HARVESTER'S DISTRICTS

(revised spring meeting 2004, fall meeting 2016)

District #1

Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Duel, Garden, Kimball, Morill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, Sioux

District #2

Arthur, Blaine, Brown, Cherry, Grant, Hooker, Keya Paha, Logan, Loup, McPherson, Rock, Thomas

District #3

Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Lincoln, Perkins, Red Willow

District #4

Buffalo, Custer, Dawson, Franklin, Furnas, Gosper, Harlan, Kearney, Phillips, Sherman, Valley

District #5

Antelope, Boyd, Cedar, Garfield, Holt, Knox, Madison, Pierce, Wayne, Wheeler

District #6

Adams, Boone, Clay, Greely, Hall, Hamilton, Howard, Merrick, Nance, Nuckolls, Webster

District #7

Bert, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders, Stanton, Thurston, Washington

District #8

Butler, Colfax, Fillmore, Jefferson, Platte, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer, York

District #9

Cass, Gage, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson

ARTICLE VIII – OFFICERS RESIGNATIONS

BY-LAW 8 – 1 – RESIGNATIONS

When the elected official resigns before their term has expired, the Board of Directors will appoint someone to fulfill the terms of that office.

ARTICLE IX – DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

BY-LAW 9 – 1 – PRESIDENT’S DUTIES

The President, ~~as~~ **functions as the** chief officer of the organization, and shall supervise the organization’s affairs and activities. In addition, the President shall:

1. Have the responsibility of conducting an orderly meeting.
2. Oversee the activities of each committee chairperson.
3. Be responsible for ensuring that there is a newsletter in each issue of the organization’s official publication.
4. Correlate and edit information for presentation to the membership.
5. Be responsible for giving guidance and direction to the organization.
6. Be available to all members for ideas and suggestions.

BY-LAW 9 – 2 – VICE-PRESIDENT’S DUTIES

The Vice-President will, in the absence of the President, perform the same duties as the President. In addition, the Vice-President shall:

1. Be responsible for scheduling an interesting program/speaker at the meetings, time permitting.

BY-LAW 9 – 3 – SECRETARY’S DUTIES

The Secretary shall:

1. Be responsible for recording the minutes of each regular meeting as well as all Board of Directors meetings.
2. Make attendance records for all elected officials as well as the general membership.
3. Assist the president and each committee with correspondence.
4. Be responsible for reading the minutes of the last meeting.

BY-LAW 9 – 4 – ~~TREASURER'S~~ **TREASURER'S** DUTIES

The Treasurer shall record all monetary transactions at each meeting, and, if required, at home, and make a written and oral report at the regular meetings as well as all Board of Directors meetings. In addition Treasurer shall:

1. ~~Making~~ Keep accurate records.
2. Make funds available to all committees ~~is~~ **as** approved by the Board of Directors.
3. Collect fees for memberships and subscriptions.
4. Forward subscription money to the official publication.
5. Be responsible for selling the organization's hats and patches.

BY-LAW 9– 5 – PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR'S DUTIES

The Public Relations Director shall collect, edit, and print all material in the official publication of the organization and/or otherwise as directed by ~~the President~~ **the President**. In addition, the Public Relations Director shall:

1. Be responsible for the printing of all publications, posters, flyers, and related materials.

BY-LAW 9 – 6 – DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S DUTIES

The District Directors shall each perform the following duties:

1. ~~Right~~ **Write** at least one newsletter **article** per year for publication in the organization's ~~of initial~~ **official** publication.
2. Attend at least one of the ~~three~~ regular meetings, ~~print sees~~ Board of Directors meeting, general membership meeting, or spring meeting held each year.
3. ~~Contact members of their District concerning the growth of client up for bear populations in the district.???~~
4. Promote membership in their district.
5. Collect all pertinent data from the area to be presented **at the** Board of Directors meetings.
6. Make information available to all members in their District.
7. ~~Make all~~ **Hold** meetings of members within their district as need arises.

BY-LAW 9 – 7 – NTA (**NATIONAL TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION**) DIRECTOR'S DUTIES

The NTA Director shall attend the National Trappers Association meeting and represent the Nebraska Fur Harvesters Association. In addition the NTA director shall:

1. ~~Take~~ **Give** a full written and oral report at the next regular membership meeting on returning from the NTA convention.

2. Set up a booth at the fall convention for the purpose ~~would a~~ of promoting the National Trappers Association.
3. Keep the membership ~~board~~ informed through regular newsletters in the organization's official publication.

BY-LAW 9 – 8 – LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE'S DUTIES

The Legislative Representative shall:

1. Monitor all state, national, ~~but~~ and local legislation or regulations which affect the members for harvesting privileges and inform the officers of any pending matters.
2. Will, along with the other officers, determine what action to take on these matters and offer testimony to any public or private body or group in order to state the official position of the organization.
3. Keep the membership informed through regular newsletters in the organization's official publication.

BY-LAW 9 – 9 – FUR TAKERS OF AMERICA (FTA) DIRECTOR'S DUTIES

The FTA director shall attend ~~the~~ Fur Takers of America ~~America~~ meeting and represent the Nebraska Fur Harvesters. In addition, the FTA Director shall:

1. Make a full written and oral report at the next regular membership meeting after returning from the FTA convention.
2. ~~So that the~~ Set up a booth ~~or at the~~ fall convention for the purpose of promoting Fur Takers of America.
3. Keep the membership ~~form~~ informed through regular newsletters in the organization's official publication.

ARTICLE X – POLICIES

BY-LAW 10 – 1 – POLICIES

In addition to the BY-LAWS, this organization shall be governed by policies as may be adopted by the Board of Directors and members of this organization. No policy shall conflict with these BY-LAWS.

BY-LAW 10 – 2 – FORMATION OF POLICIES

Policies may be adopted, amended, or repealed at any regularly called meeting of the general membership.

ARTICLE XI – CALLING OF THE MEETINGS

BY-LAW 11 – 1 – CALLING OF MEETINGS

Notice of all regular membership meetings as well as all Board of Directors and special meetings, shall be given in the organization's official publication.

ARTICLE XII – AUTHORITY TO BIND

BY-LAW 12 – 1 – AUTHORITY TO BIND

No member of this organization shall contract for or incur any debt or enter into any agreement or otherwise obligate this organization except by authorization of the Board of Directors or the membership.

ARTICLE XIII – RULES OF ORDER

BY-LAW 13 – 1 – RULES OF ORDER

Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of all meetings of this organization and ~~a~~ **all** constituent parts except as provided in the BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE XIV – ~~AMENDMENTS~~ **AMENDMENTS**

BY-LAW 14 – 1 – ~~AMMENDMENTS~~ **AMENDMENTS**

These BY-LAWS may be amended **or changed** by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at a spring or fall general membership meeting, provided notice of the ~~beat~~ **vote**, along with a brief description of those amendments/changes, is given in the organization's official publication prior to meeting.

ARTICLE XV – REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

BY-LAW 15 – 1 – REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

Any officer may be removed from office ~~of~~ **as a** result of failure to perform the duties of that office or for conduct detrimental to the best interest of the organization. Said removal must follow the following procedure:

1. A petition stating that charge shall be filed with the Secretary and signed by two-thirds of the Board of Directors.
2. The Secretary shall notify each member, ~~to~~ **through** the newsletter, at least one month ~~for the~~ **questions** prior to the general membership meeting, **and the issue** must be placed on the general membership meeting agenda.
3. Said officer shall be given written notice of charge at least five days before the question is presented to the general membership for voting.
4. The petitioners shall present their case first, followed by the officer in question. Then the voting takes place. Two-thirds majority is required to remove said officer from office.
5. This vote may only take place **at** the general membership meeting at the fall convention.
6. District Directors may be removed at any time at the discretion of the President, unless the director opposes the removal, in which case the above procedure would be required.

ARTICLE XVI – RECOGNITIONS

BY-LAW 16 – 1 – NEBRASKA FUR HARVESTERS HALL OF FAME

Nominations to the Nebraska Fur Harvesters Hall of Fame must be made by submitting the required information no later than May 1 of each year. The Board of Directors will review the nominations at any meeting as determined by the President. Nominations to the Nebraska Fur Harvesters Hall of Fame must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the attending members of the Board of Directors at the review.

BY-LAW 16 – 2 – OTHER AWARDS

Other awards or recognitions may be granted if recommended and approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the attending members of the Board of Directors at a regular meeting or special meeting as called by the President.

ARTICLE XVII – COMMITTEES

BY-LAW 17 – 1 – FORMATION, DISSOLUTION AND GOVERNANCE

Any number of Committees can be formed to divide work into task groups. Committees must be created by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors.

1. Committees must consist of members in good standing and can contain any number of members.
2. Committees are subordinate to the Board of Directors.
3. Committee Chairpersons will be appointed by the President.
4. Committee chairpersons must report a current list of committee members to the President.
5. The President and all Board of Directors can be members and chairpersons of committees.
6. The President can appoint himself to a committee chair.
7. The Board of Directors reserves the right to dissolve a committee if it is no longer needed.