

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be the CENTRAL NEW YORK BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION, INC.

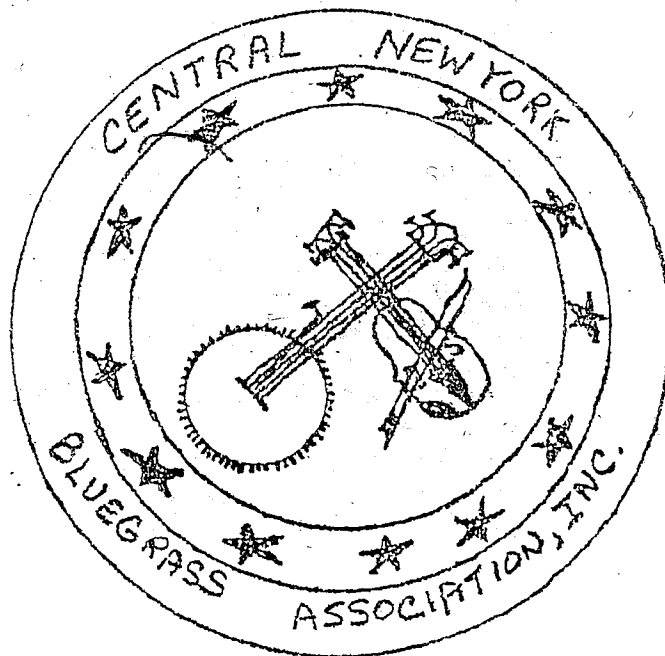
ARTICLE II - PURPOSES

The purposes of this organization shall be to promote and promulgate bluegrass and old-time country music by:

- A. Introducing the uninitiated to bluegrass and old-time music, i.e. music of unelectrified (except bass) string and traditional instruments.
- B. Booking of bluegrass and old-time music bands into the Central New York area.
- C. Subsidizing, when feasible, the cost of an old-time or bluegrass musical entertainment.
- D. Attempting to publicize bluegrass and old-time musical events by whatever sponsorship.

ARTICLE III - EMBLEM

The official emblem shall be:



ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this association shall be composed of persons in the following categories: HONORARY, ACTIVE, and ASSOCIATE.

- A. HONORARY – Honorary membership shall be awarded to any individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the purposes of this Association. Honorary membership shall be determined by nomination by any active member at any regular or special meeting; and upon approval of a plurality of the Board of Directors, and two-thirds of the active members present. Honorary members shall be exempt from payment of any dues. They shall not vote, hold office, or have any interest in or title to any property and assets of the Association. An Honorary member may become an active member with full privileges thereof upon payment of dues.

- B. ACTIVE – Active membership shall be of four categories:
 1. INDIVIDUAL – Any person sixteen years of age and older may become an active member upon application and payment of dues. Each person shall be limited to one active membership. An active member shall have the right to vote, hold office, receive all newsletters issued by the Association, receive due notice of all meetings, and have title to and interest in the assets of the Association.

 2. FAMILY – A household may obtain a family membership upon application and payment of dues. A family is defined as at least one person eighteen years or older and all dependent members of his/her household. Such membership shall be issued in the name of one adult in the household, and all names to be included in the membership must be listed thereon. Both husband and wife in the family membership shall have all the privileges of an individual active member. This will allow both husband and wife to vote and/or hold office.

 3. BAND – An active musical group may obtain a band membership upon application and payment of dues. An active musical group shall be defined as two or more persons who have actively participated in at least two public musical appearances within the twelve months prior to application. Such membership shall be issued in the name of the acknowledged leader of the band; all members' names to be included in the membership must be listed thereon, and all persons listed must be musically active in the band. Only the person in whose name the membership is issued (i.e. the leader) shall have the privileges of an individual member, and this person shall not simultaneously hold another type of active membership. (Other listed band members, however, may be active members in another category.)

4. **SENIOR CITIZEN/HANDICAP** – Upon application and payment of dues, any person reaching the age of 62 may become a Senior Citizen member and will be entitled to privileges of a full active member; likewise, any handicapped individual with a government issued handicap card, upon application and payment of dues will also be entitled to privileges of a full active member.
- C. **ASSOCIATE** – Any person may become an associate member upon application and payment of associate membership dues. An associate member shall not vote, hold office or have any title to, or interest in the assets of the Association. All other rights and privileges of membership shall apply.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS

The officers shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, each of whom shall be elected at the annual meeting by a plurality of votes consisting of the sum of the votes cast by active members present and any proxy ballots postmarked at least one week prior to the annual meeting.

- A. Each officer shall serve a term of one year, but may be re-elected.
- B. Officers shall be elected at the annual meeting, and assume their duties the following September 1st.
- C. The fiscal year shall go from September 1st through August 31st.
- D. There shall be a Board of Directors, which will consist of all duly elected officers and six directors; two directors shall be elected for a term of three years at each annual meeting. No Board member shall serve more than two consecutive three-year terms, and may not be elected again for three years. The outgoing President shall be on the Board of Directors for a term of one year.
- E. Any director who is absent for three consecutive board meetings shall be considered for removal by the remainder of the board. Two-thirds of the board members present must vote for such removal to occur.

ARTICLE VI – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- A. **PRESIDENT** – The President shall:
 1. Preside at all general meetings of the Association.
 2. Call special meetings of the Board of Directors.
 3. Appoint the chairpersons of all committees. Each chairperson shall appoint the members of his/her committee.

4. Be ex-officio member of all committees.
5. Not vote in general meetings, except to break a tie vote.
6. In the absence of the Vice President, preside at meetings of the Board of Directors.

B. VICE-PRESIDENT – The Vice President shall:

1. Assume the duties of the President in the absence of the President.
2. Preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors; however, he/she shall vote only to break a tie.

C. SECRETARY – The Secretary shall:

1. Keep all minutes of the Association and of the Board of Directors.
2. Have custody of all pertinent reports, communications and documents connected with the proceedings of the Association.
3. Conduct the official correspondence of the Association.

D. TREASURER – The Treasurer shall:

1. Assume charge of the fiscal affairs of the Association; and shall keep, in books provided for that purpose, an accurate accounting of all monies received and paid.
2. Disburse funds at the direction of the Membership or Board of Directors in cash or by check to be signed by him/her and countersigned by the President.
3. Deposit funds in an account in the Association's name in such a bank as approved by the Board of Directors.
4. At each annual meeting, and when otherwise requested by the President, give a detailed account of the financial status of the club. The Treasurer's books are subject to inspection by any voting member at any time.
5. The Board of Directors shall audit the Treasurer's books at the beginning of the fiscal year.

E. BOARD OF DIRECTORS – The Board of Directors shall:

1. Have general supervision of the property, finances, and affairs of the Association, but shall not commit any assets of the Association in excess of \$500.00 without the consent of the active membership; such consent to be determined at a general or special meeting. Prior to committing funds not in excess of \$500.00, the Board shall determine the bank account balance(s) from the Treasurer. This paragraph shall not apply if superceded by Paragraph 5 below.
2. Make such rules for the conduct of their meetings and the management of the Association, as they deem proper.
3. Have the power to fill any vacancies occurring upon the Board of Directors or among any of the elective officers provided that such vacancies shall be filled only until the next annual meeting.
4. Audit the Treasurer's books at the beginning of the fiscal year, and as they deem necessary.
5. Determine, by a two-thirds majority, whether to hire a touring band. The commitment for this may exceed the amount stated in Paragraph 1 above. A poll conducted by telephone or other means of communication shall suffice as a meeting for this purpose. The concurrence of the Treasurer is required.
6. Any voting member may observe board meetings. Voting members may participate in the meeting by invitation only.

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS, NOTICES AND QUORUM

A. MEETINGS

1. The April meeting shall be the annual meeting of each year; at which time officers and directors shall be elected for the ensuing fiscal year.
2. Special meetings may be called by the President, by a plurality vote of the Board of Directors, or by any group of ten or more active members requesting such a meeting.
3. Regular meetings shall normally be the second Sunday of each month. Meetings may be changed by vote of the membership. Such changes will be published in a timely manner in the monthly newsletter. They shall be open to the public.

B. NOTICES

It shall be the duty of the secretary to mail to the address of each voting member notice of each annual meeting and all special meetings at least five days in advance of any such meeting; and to mail to each officer and director a notice of each meeting of the Board of Directors at least three days in advance of such meeting. The annual meeting and Board of Directors' meeting notices are normally given via the newsletter.

C. QUORUM

A quorum shall consist of 12 or more active members, excluding officers.

ARTICLE VIII – COMMITTEES

The President shall appoint all Chairpersons of committees. The standing committees are: Membership, Newsletter/Publicity, and Nominating.

A. MEMBERSHIP

1. The membership committee shall receive applications and payments of all membership dues. Dues shall be forwarded to the Treasurer. An accurate listing of current membership, renewal dates, and changes of address shall be provided to the Newsletter Editor each month. Such list shall also be provided to the Secretary upon request.
2. Expenses incurred by this committee shall be reimbursed by the Treasurer.

B. NEWSLETTER/PUBLICITY

1. This committee shall compose, print and mail a newsletter each month (except July/August, which are combined) to each current paid-up member whose status is covered in Article IX.
2. Print and mail notices to newspapers, radio/television stations, and other available types of media for promoting our sponsored events.
3. Expenses incurred by this committee shall be reimbursed by the Treasurer.

C. NOMINATING

1. The Nominating Committee shall consist of not less than three voting members, the chairperson appointed at a regular meeting, at least one month prior to the annual meeting. It shall be the duty of such committee to propose and to present to the membership, both in the newsletter announcing the annual meeting and at the annual meeting, recommendations for each elective office, including directorships.
2. Such recommendations, however, shall not preclude nominations also made from the floor at the annual meeting by any active member in good standing. Any active member making a nomination from the floor shall have the nominee's consent prior to making said nomination.

ARTICLE IX – DUTIES OF MEMBERS

1. Each member shall pay to the Membership Committee each year, on or before the anniversary of his/her membership, annual membership dues. Such amount will be established by two-thirds of the votes cast by voting members in good standing at any regular meeting. Any dues change approved by the membership shall become effective at the beginning of the next fiscal year.
2. A member shall lose all privileges of membership including right to vote and to hold office, and the right to share in the property and assets of the Association if he/she is in arrears on annual dues after the last day of the month following the member's anniversary date. Any member whose dues are two months or more in arrears shall be dropped from the membership rolls.

ARTICLE X – DISCIPLINE

- A. A member may be expelled or suspended upon charges preferred in writing and presented at a meeting of the Association. Such charges shall be acted upon at either the next regular meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose. The allegedly offending member shall be given written notice of such charges, and an opportunity to appear and present a defense. A plurality of votes shall decide upon the charges. If a person is expelled from a C.N.Y.B.A. event, it shall be the duty of the President, in the absence of charges filed by anyone else, to prefer such charges. If a person is expelled from the Association, he/she shall also be barred from events sponsored by the Association. Such a person may not reapply for membership within a period of five years; and such reapplication requires approval by the Board of Directors.
- B. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to declare any office vacant if the incumbent thereof shall consistently neglect the duties of such office. A three-fourths vote by the Board of Directors shall be required for such removal.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

Any amendments to this Constitution shall be proposed at a regular scheduled meeting. The proposal may be presented in writing by any voting member, and after being read, shall be referred to the Board of Directors. The Board shall study such proposal and report thereon at the next regular meeting; at which time the proposal may be adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the active membership present.

ARTICLE XII – RULES FOR MEETINGS

Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the meetings of this Association on all points not specified in this constitution, and the whole is subject to the laws of the State of New York and the United States of America.