

Constitution of the Erie County Agricultural Society

ARTICLE I – TITLE

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the Erie County Agricultural Society.

ARTICLE II – OBJECT

Section 1. The object of this Society shall be to promote and encourage agriculture, education, science, art and other interests of Erie County which the Board deems proper and in the best interests of the community.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any adult resident of Erie County without regard to race, color or national origin may be a member of this Society by paying annually the membership fee fixed by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The management shall consist of no more than twenty-five (25) directors who shall be elected for a term of three years and the terms so arranged that the terms of one-third (1/3) of the membership shall expire annually. One director shall be elected from each township, plus one from the City of Sandusky (Portland Township) and fifteen At-Large.

Section 2. Honorary directors shall include the County Extension Educators, Agriculture, Family & Consumer Sciences and 4-H, Superintendents of all Erie County Schools, Board of Commissioners, County Engineer, County Prosecutor, all County Vocational Agriculture and Family & Consumer Sciences Teachers and Erie County Farm Bureau Federation President. They are to be without voting privileges at meetings of the Board.

Section 3. Any vacancy caused by death, resignation, removal from office or any other causes, may be filled by the Board until the next annual election, when a Director shall be elected for the unexpired term.

Section 4. The President, Vice-President, Secretary and one Director shall constitute the Executive Committee.

Section 5. Directors may rent buildings at the set reduced rate. Rental must be for immediate family use only at a reduced rate. Director must be an active Director at the time of the rental to receive the reduced rate. If an individual is no longer a director at the time of the rental, the full rental rate will be charged.

Section 6. The Board may remove any director if: (A) The Director has failed to attend three (3) consecutive regularly scheduled Board meetings without sufficient excuse or cause; or (B) The Director has failed to fulfill their duties during the annual fair without sufficient excuse or cause; or (C) By order of the court, the Director has been found to be of unsound mind; or (D) By order of the court, the Director has been convicted of a felony; or (E) By order of the court, the Director has been convicted of theft; or (F) By order of the court, the Director has been convicted of a criminal offense involving moral turpitude; or (G) The Director has engaged in specific actions which cause or tend to cause the Society damage to its property or reputation,

or which create potential legal liability on the part of the Society. The Director shall be issued a warning. Upon the third finding of the Executive Board of such conduct by a Board Member in violation, he/she shall appear before the Board of Directors to answer as to why the offending Board Member should not be expelled from the Board. After said hearing, should three-fourths (3/4) of the Board vote to expel the offending Board Member, said offending Board Member shall be forthwith expelled and the expelled Board Member's position shall be filled pursuant to Article IV, Section 3. Herein.

ARTICLE V – ELECTION

Section 1. The annual Election of the Board of Directors shall be held on **Saturday the last day** of the annual Fair between the hours of 2 P.M. and 6 P.M. at the Sr. Fair Board office or designated area on the fairgrounds.

Section 2. The said election shall be by ballot. Ballots must be marked with an “X” opposite the name of each candidate voted for, otherwise the name shall not be counted.

Section 3. Only persons holding membership certificates on the date and hour of the election may vote.

Section 4. Members of the Society must declare their candidacy for the office of Director of the Society by filing with the Secretary of the Society, a petition signed by ten (10) or more members of the Society who are residents of the county in which the society is organized, at least seven (7) days before the annual election of directors is held. Only regularly nominated candidates who have met the filing requirements shall be eligible for election as a director.

Section 5. The term of office of the retiring directors shall expire and that of the directors-elect shall begin on the day of the annual meeting each year, or until their successors are elected and qualified.

ARTICLE VI – ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Section 1. The annual meeting of the members of the Society shall be set by the Executive Committee **to be held in December**. Notice must be sent to all directors of the Society at least 10 days prior to the annual meeting, listing the date, hour and place of meeting.

Section 2. At this meeting, the officers and directors of the Society shall make reports to the membership of the Society concerning the past Fair and make recommendations for the betterment of future Fairs. The members shall be given the opportunity for making suggestions and recommendations for the improvement of the Society and its Fair. Such other business may be presented as prescribed by this constitution or as may be deemed proper by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII – ORGANIZATION AND MEETINGS

Section 1. **T**he Board of Directors shall meet annually during November of each year on a date as decided by the Board of Directors, and elect a President and Vice-President. The President and Vice-President shall serve one year and until their successors are elected and qualified. Nominations are to be opened at the regular scheduled October meeting for President and Vice-President. Elections are to be held at the regular scheduled November meeting after new

board members are installed and nominations are closed, with new members voting for officers only. Vote is to be conducted by paper ballot, printed by the Secretary. Ballots are to be kept by the Secretary until after elections the following year. Ballots are to be counted by one board member and one member from the general agricultural society membership.

Section 2. The President and Vice-President shall be directors. The Secretary and Treasurer may be directors.

Section 3. Before the election of officers, in November, the newly elected directors shall qualify by taking the oath (or affirm) before a competent authority designated by law: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of Ohio, laws of Ohio and rules and regulations of the Department of Agriculture pertaining to Agricultural societies and to the best of my ability perform the duties of Director of the Erie County Agricultural Society, so help me God."

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to the constitution or by-laws may be proposed by: A majority vote of the Board of Directors, at a scheduled meeting, voting in favor of placing an amendment on the ballot, **OR** by filing a petition with the Secretary of the Society at least fourteen (14) days prior to the annual election of the Board of Directors or the annual meeting of the Society membership. Said petition must set forth the proposed amendment and be signed by not less than twenty-five (25) members.

Section 2. Special meetings may be held, when necessary, at the call of the President or at the call of the Secretary, upon the written request to the Secretary by not less than three (3) members of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. If an amendment is proposed, it shall be submitted to the membership of the Society at the annual election of the Board of Directors **OR** the annual meeting of the Society membership.

Section 4. When more than one amendment shall be submitted at the same time, they shall be submitted as to enable members to vote on each amendment separately.

Section 5. If the majority of the membership voting on the proposed amendment shall adopt such amendment, it shall become part of the Constitution or By-Laws.

ARTICLE IX – COMPENSATION

Section 1. The compensation of the Board members shall be fixed by the Board in accordance with the rules of the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

ARTICLE X – BONDS

Section 1. The Secretary shall post a security bond in the amount of \$100,000 payable to the Society, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the duties of his/her office.

Section 2. The Treasurer shall post a security bond in the amount of \$100,000 payable to the Society, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the duties of his/her office.

ARTICLE XI – FAIR DATES

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall fix the dates of the annual exposition of the Society
subject to the approval of the Ohio Director of Agriculture