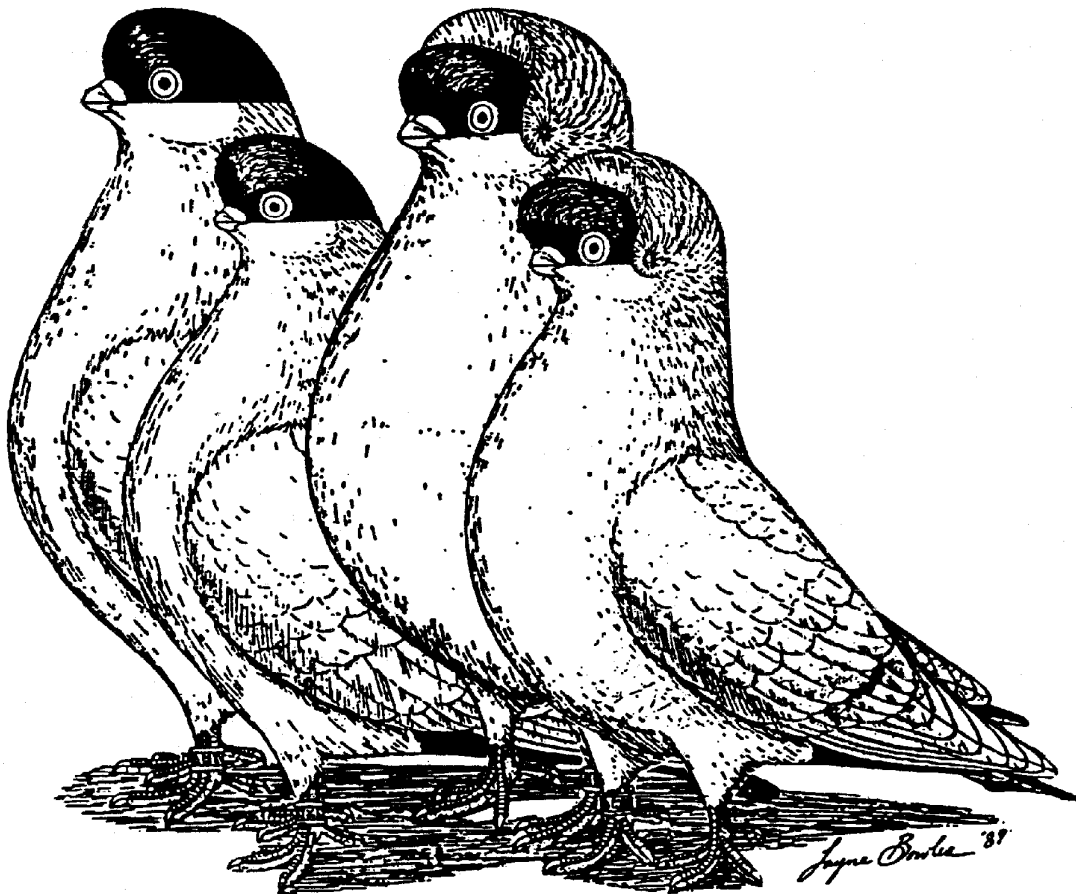


The American Helmet Association

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FOUNDED IN 1958

Constitution & By-Laws



# AMERICAN HELMET ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

April 15, 1966  
(as revised September 29, 2007)

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## **ARTICLE I. NAME**

This organization shall be known as the American Helmet Association, referred to hereinafter as the A.H.A.

## **ARTICLE II. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the A.H.A. is to promote the breeding, exhibition and improvement of all varieties of the Helmet pigeon; to assist novice breeders in gaining a knowledge of the breed; to encourage attendance and support the AHA shows; to set forth ideal standards of perfection in the USA and promote that standard throughout the world; and to promote good fellowship among its members.

## **ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section A. Qualifications and requirements:**

The membership shall consist of breeders, exhibitors, and interested parties, with a mutual interest in the Helmet pigeon and welfare of the organization.

1. Senior members - Paid up members 18 years of age or older with all privileges of membership.
2. Junior members - Paid up members under 18 years of age, with all privileges of membership, except voting rights. At their option, however, 17 year olds may elect senior membership.
3. Family memberships - Paid up members of a family, including spouse and all children under age 18. Family memberships shall have one voting right.
4. Honorary members - An adult who, for reasons beyond his control does not breed or exhibit Helmets, but whose contribution and/or interest in the breed and AHA is judged by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors to be substantial and worthy of recognition. Honorary memberships automatically lapse after three years, but are renewable.
5. Lifetime members – Lifetime membership can be conferred by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

**Section B. Application for membership:**

1. Any person, regardless of race, creed, color, sex, country of origin or residence, who is presumed to be honest and who subscribes to the purpose of the organization is eligible for membership.

**Section C. Rights and responsibilities:**

1. Applicants for membership shall be accepted only upon payment of annual dues to the Secretary-Treasurer, after which he or she will be furnished a membership card, a copy of the Standards, the Ideal Drawings, a copy of this Constitution and By-Laws, and regular issues of the news bulletin (only one in the case of Family memberships) with all rights stated above.
2. Members are expected to make an effort to show at AHA sponsored meets, to exercise their voting rights, and to support this Constitution.

**ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS**

**Section A. Consist of:**

Officers shall consist of a President, an Eastern Vice President, a Central Vice President, a Western Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, Publicity Director, Bulletin Editor, Points Director, District Directors (one Director from each District as established) and a Board of Directors to consist of the President and the Director of each District with the President voting only in the event of a tie.

**Section B. Election term of:**

All officers shall be elected for a period of two years and /or until a successor is named (assuming compliance with the membership provisions of Article III, Section A-1). There shall be no other provisions precluding an officer from succeeding himself or limiting the number of terms of office.

**Section C. Nomination and election of officers:**

1. Nominations shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer or the Chairman of the Nomination and Election committee, if one is designated, by any active member before July 1 of the election year.
2. An officer shall be elected by ballot if more than one name is nominated for the office, or shall be designated automatically, if only one name is nominated for the office.
3. Officers will be elected in August of that year by a majority vote (of those voting) on a mail ballot of all members. District Directors will be selected by majority vote of those members in each respective district.
4. Interim temporary officers may be appointed by the President with the consent and approval of a majority of the Board of Directors to fill any vacancy created by the incapacity or resignation of an officer.

**ARTICLE V. AMENDMENT**

This Constitution may be amended at any time by a vote of two-thirds of the general senior membership votes cast after compliance with the following procedure:

**Section A:**

A proposed amendment signed by two senior members is furnished to a District Director for consideration.

**Section B:**

If the District Director approves the proposed amendment, a copy is sent to the President for review, after which it is:

**Section C:**

Submitted to the Board of Directors for consideration. If approved by two-thirds majority vote of the Board, the proposed amendment shall be:

**Section D:**

Reviewed and aired as to its merits in two successive issues of the News Bulletin, promptly followed by a mail vote of all voting members in the next regular issue.

**Section E:**

Changes resultant from amendment will become effective on the first day of the month sixty days following a favorable vote.

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## ARTICLE I. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

### Section A. President:

The President shall preside over meetings of the organization, shall uphold the Constitution and By-Laws, shall have a final voice in matters of interpretation of this Constitution and By-Laws, and shall review any charge of misconduct referred by a District Director in connection with an expulsion action. (See Article III of the By-Laws). Shall preside over meetings of the body and have full authority to appoint chairmen of committees to further the work of the organization, for example: Nomination and Election, Membership, Constitutional Amendment, Audit, Points Director for the Master Breeder Program, etc. Shall take an active part in the leadership of projects deemed in the interest of the AHA. With the advice and consent of the majority of the Board of Directors, will designate the site and date of the Annual AHA Show.

### Section B. Vice President:

In the absence of the President, the Vice President representing the geographic region in which the President resides shall preside over meetings and have full authority in the event the President is unable for any reason to complete the term in office. The next most senior opposite Vice President will, in the event, be second in authority. All Vice Presidents shall maintain contact with fellow officers and assist in any way deemed helpful by the President. They may be appointed to head any committee, and in general, lead in recruiting new members through correspondence, articles in periodicals, personal contacts, etc.

### Section C. Secretary-Treasurer:

The Secretary-Treasurer shall preside in the absence of the President and Vice Presidents and shall conduct the official correspondence and maintain a file of significant historical and financial data relevant to the origin and growth of the AHA, specifically including minutes of Annual Meetings. Additional responsibilities are:

1. To maintain a current roster of the membership, including current addresses, and publish same at least once a year.
2. The annual procurement and sale of official AHA bands to members.
3. Arrange for the procurement of awards and the payment of the judge for the national show; this cost being born by the national AHA treasury and all rebate will be returned to the AHA treasury.
4. Furnish membership cards, and up-to-date copy of the Standards, Constitution and By-Laws, etc. as called for in Section C, Article III

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- (Membership Rights and Responsibilities) to all members, and Awards of Recognition under Section C. (1, 2, 3 and 4) Article V of the By-Laws.
5. In the absence of a duly authorized Nomination and Election Committee, appointed by the President pursuant to Article I, Section A, of these By-Laws, shall act as official Elections Officer. This duty involves, but is not limited to: (a) seeking nominations for all offices, awards, and honors, etc., (b) gaining the acceptance of nominees for office where appropriate, (c) the preparation and mailing of ballots, one to each adult member as in (d) counting ballots, and (e) announcing the results to the membership, including the publication of changes resultant from amendment to the Constitution of these By-Laws.
  6. Have custody of all funds, receive all money for dues, fees, band sales, rebates from Annual AHA Shows, and keep an accurate record of same, pay bills necessary and proper for the operation of the organization upon the authorization of the President, or the chairman of the Finance Committee (if one is designated), including necessary postage and stationary expenses as indicated above.

At his or her option the Secretary-Treasurer may receive 5% of the annual Membership dues received in the current year in addition to exemption from paying dues for efforts on behalf of the organization.

### **Section D. Publicity Director:**

Primary responsibility is the coordination of promotional activities for the organization. Responsibilities include editing and submission of various publicity releases, including articles, pictures and other information, to any or all periodicals, web sites, or other electronic media devoted to the pigeon fancy. Responsibilities also include the periodic preparation and mailing of publicity bulletins, including a periodic Year Book to members, and working with and encouraging members in the preparation and coordination of articles for publication in any of the above media. The availability of necessary funds in connection with the above activities shall be cleared with the Secretary-Treasurer, in advance.

### **Section E. District Directors:**

1. District Directors shall serve as official representatives and spokesman for members of their respective districts, and shall act on their behalf as members of the Board of Directors.
  - a. Shall be responsible for directing and coordinating organizational activities within their districts, functioning in a liaison capacity insofar as the relations of the members and potential members in their district to the AHA, its officers and other members.
  - b. Shall be responsible for arranging and promoting in all ways possible at least one District Show (preferably more) in their district each year, including the selection of competent judges, care of birds, presentation of awards, and other activities in the interest of the breed and the AHA.

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- c. In the event a qualified judge is inadvertently unavailable for any reason to handle the judging of an AHA sanctioned meet, the District Director will disqualify all of his own Helmets and handle the judging himself.
2. Shall have one vote on the Board of Directors.
3. Shall furnish the Secretary-Treasurer with news of general interest (new members, show reports, meetings, etc.) from that district, and encourage the submission by members of articles of interest to the Publicity Director for publication.
4. Shall have full authority to decide local issues affecting the organization which are not specifically covered by this Constitution and By-Laws.
5. Where feasible, may appoint a Junior District Director to assist in promoting the breed among youth.

### **Section F. The Board of Directors:**

1. The deliberative body of the AHA shall consist of the President, who will act as Chairman and vote only in the case of a tie, the immediate Past President, and all current District Directors. When a member of the Board ceases to hold the office, membership on the Board terminates automatically. The Vice Presidents and Secretary-Treasurer may be advisory members of this body, without voting rights. A major responsibility of the Board shall be consideration of amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws.
2. A majority vote of this body on other matters of major importance not covered by the Constitution and By-Laws will be considered final and binding, unless, upon their recommendation, they are submitted to the membership for majority vote.

### **Section G. Bulletin Editor:**

The Bulletin Editor shall prepare and mail the membership periodic news bulletins devoted to the current events of the organization, including but not limited to new members, changes of address, show dates and show reports, organizational matters, band sales and financial statement. Former members on active duty in the armed forces who permit their memberships to lapse, but who express a continuing interest in the AHA, may be included on the mailing list.

### **Section H. Points Director:**

A Points Director shall be elected whose responsibility it shall be to review and certify official points based upon documented records.

1. The Points Director shall maintain a file of all officially sanctioned AHA shows, and upon receipt of supporting records, will furnish written certification of approved points to members.
2. District Directors shall submit show reports and records to the Points Director according to the rules of the Master Breeder Program.

## **ARTICLE II. DUES**

### **Section A:**

Membership dues shall be \$15 per year for senior members and \$5 per year for junior members. Family membership dues shall be \$20 per year. Dues are payable for one year for example, from May 1, 1985 to April 30, 1986.

### **Section B.:**

No member more than two months in arrears shall have voting privileges. Any member more than six months in arrears shall be automatically dropped from membership. Dues paid within said period shall restore membership rights back to the expiration date but without retroactive voting rights.

## **ARTICLE III. EXPULSION**

A member may be expelled for dishonest representation or conduct judged to be grossly detrimental to the best interests of the AHA. This is a serious charge and shall be sustained only after deliberate and impartial study by the Board of Directors.

### **Section A. Complaints:**

A member wishing to lodge a charge against another member may do so by documenting full particulars in writing to the President who will evaluate the merits of the complaint. The President shall have full authority to dismiss such complaint if in his judgment it lacks substance, and will so advise the complainant.

### **Section B. Procedure:**

If in the judgment of the President the complaint warrants further consideration, he, or his designated representative will:

1. Notify in writing the person or persons against whom the complaint had been registered, identifying the complainant, and spelling out the nature of the allegation, and:
2. Allow ninety days from the date of the mailing for the accused to respond in writing to the charge.

### **Section C. Investigation:**

Lacking satisfactory explanation or adjustment, the President will refer the matter to the Board of Directors. An additional sixty-day extension may be granted by the Board of Directors in requested by the accused or if deemed by the Board of Directors to be in the best interest of impartial investigation and consideration.

**Section D. Resolution:**

If two members of the Board of Directors request that the matter be put to a vote, the President will canvass the Board, and a two-thirds majority vote of the entire Board (not just those voting) will sustain the complaint and result in the expulsion of the member.

**Section E. Notification:**

The President, acting on behalf of the Board, will advise the expelled member in writing of the reason for expulsion and explain what steps may be necessary for reinstatement.

**Section F. Reinstatement:**

Upon application an expelled member may be considered for reinstatement after three years.

**ARTICLE IV. NATIONAL AFFILIATION**

**Section A. N.P.A. Affiliation:**

The AHA, on the basis of vote of the membership on January 1, 1964, is an affiliate of the National Pigeon Association.

**ARTICLE V. ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES:**

**Section A. Shows:**

1. Annual AHA Show: An Annual (National) Show will be held each year; the site and date to be determined by the President after conferring with the Board of Directors. The District Director for the district in which the show is held will be the AHA representative in charge of the show. Judges for the National Show will be nominated by the membership and shall be offered, as payment for their services, 50% of the rebate of each bird judged. If a judge declines payment for his services, those moneys will remain in the club Treasury. The name of the judge selection shall be announced to the membership in the News Bulletin as soon as a firm commitment is made. The provisions Article I, Section E-1-C of these By-Laws relative to the absence of the designated judge will apply. Classes shall be provided as set forth in the AHA Standard. To qualify for awards at this show, classes must have a minimum number of entries as outlined in the Master Breeder Program.
  - a. If the host director of the National Show holds an auction of Helmets to benefit the Helmet fancy, the proceeds of this auction are to be split as follows: 10% to the AHA Treasury and 90% to the breeder of auctioned Helmets. The Seller will be assessed a 10% fee on the last bid made on a bird in the auction. If no bid is obtained on a bird there will be a 10% fee on the sellers minimum bid he has put on the bird before the auction. This fee will be paid by the seller. The proceeds will go into the National Treasury. There will be a 10-bird limit on the number of Helmets each member of the AHA may have in the auction.

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- b. Judges for the national show will be selected by the membership. Members will nominate judges for all classes and a ballot will then be submitted to the membership for vote.
2. Sectional Meets: The continental United States is divided roughly into three sections - the East, Central, and the West. The various districts in each section are encouraged to arrange inter-district competition at a mutually agreeable central location and date consistent with easy access of members. The respective Vice President will coordinate the arrangements, have final responsibility for the selection of judges, etc. It is contemplated that the site of Sectional Meets will be rotated between districts each year.
3. District Shows: Each district with significant membership will hold at least one District Show each year, (See Article I, Section E-1-b of these By-Laws). At his or her discretion the District Director may designate one show as the young bird show, another as a winter show, etc. District Directors may accept specials to be awarded for various categories at any designated show.
4. Champion Helmet trophies at AHA shows may be won by AHA members only. Others are open.

### **Section B. Band Pools:**

1. The President may, with the approval of a majority of the Board of Directors, establish a band pool during any given year. Specifically designated bands furnished by the Secretary-Treasurer and sold at a set fee may qualify a bird for specials offered specifically for this purpose at a given show. Proceeds of band pools go to the treasury for future show specials.

### **Section C. Awards Recognition:**

1. Master Breeder Award:  
In recognition of outstanding achievement in the breeding and exhibition of Helmets over a period of years, the AHA makes this lifetime award, the highest honor the organization may confer. Master Breeders receive a handsome plaque in recognition of this accomplishment. Official rules, based on a point system, are listed in the Master Breeder Program rules.
2. Outstanding Breeder of the Year:  
This annual award will be provided based solely upon the total number of AHA Master Breeder points that a member acquires with young birds in the preceding year.

No member may win both Outstanding Breeder of the Year and Outstanding Member in the same year. No member may win the same award two years in a row, but may win one or the other the following year.

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3. Outstanding Member of the Year:

This annual award will go to the member selected by popular vote of the membership on the basis of: (a) effort for the betterment of the AHA and the Helmet pigeon, (b) bringing in new members, (c) promotional work, (d) articles for and about the AHA and the Helmet pigeon, (e) helping new fanciers, and (f) the best interest of the breed.

  - a. Only one member may be selected each year for this award. In event of a tie, the President will cast the deciding vote. The winner one year is ineligible for the following year. A committee of the President, Vice-Presidents and the Secretary-Treasurer will screen the nominations. Nominations may be made by the entire membership.
4. Hall of Fame Award:

This award will be made annually to honor birds exemplifying the highest quality Helmets.

  - a. An individual bird in any variety, having Master Breeder point totals as outlined, shall be given the Hall of Fame Award. MFC – 200, MFPH – 125, SFC – 70, and SFPH – 70. For SFC and SFPH, if the number of birds in a show is not enough to receive official master breeder points, then the following point schedule will be observed for this award;
    - Champion only; National Show – 30 points, Sectional Show - 20 points, District Show – 10 points
    - ¼ point for each bird exhibited
    - ½ point for each exhibitor
    - 1 point for each district(note – these points are only for the Hall of Fame Award, not the master breeder program.)
  - b. An individual bird that wins three or more National Championships shall be given the Hall of Fame Award regardless of point total.
  - c. The individual breeder will be responsible for keeping their own point records, verifiable by the Points Director. When the Hall of Fame Award recipient is verified by the Points Director and forwarded to the President, a suitable certificate will be given to the owner of the bird and records pertaining to them will be recored in the official AHA records.
  - d. The Hall of Fame program shall be reviewed periodically by the Board of Directors who have the responsibility to set points for the award. The points required shall be based on the intent to keep the award challenging but reachable and will not be changed more often than once every three years.
  - e. Points earned prior to the acceptance of this proposal will be inelligable for the Hall of Fame Award. (All birds start equal)

### **Section D. Judging:**

The AHA recognizes that consistently high caliber, impartial judging is of the utmost importance in assuring the success of any show. This is essential for the standpoint of fairness to all, and the instruction of the novice fancier. In the selection of judges, therefore, District Directors shall be responsible for: selecting judges with a comprehensive knowledge of the Helmet, furnishing the judge(s) with the latest official AHA Standards well in advance of any AHA show, and insisting that such standards be the basis upon which decisions are made.

1. The judging procedure used at Portland National in 1985 has been adopted by the AHA and followed in all AHA shows. The procedure is as follows: All color classes will be judged, then all class winners will be returned for a final line-up. Birds will be eliminated until the final four or five. A champion will then be picked and the second place bird from the class the champion came from will be returned to compete for reserve champion.

### **AHA CERTIFIED JUDGES - CODE OF RULES**

1. A thorough working knowledge of the Helmet breed and its current Standard.
2. Written endorsement to the President by the following:
  - a. Director of his District, and,
  - b. Three Senior Members who exhibit regularly.
3. Sufficient knowledge of color genetics to readily identify qualities of pigmentation.
4. Have served as judge in his or her local area for at least two shows.
5. Approval by a majority of the Board of Directors.
6. Names of nominees for Certified Judges will be received by the President from Senior Members at any time.
7. Certified Judges may have their names removed from the list by:
  - a. being permanently unavailable for judging assignments, or
  - b. at his or her own request, or
  - c. upon written notification by the President upon the recommendation of a majority of the Board of Directors.

### **ARTICLE VI. ANNUAL MEETINGS**

In connection with the Annual Show (see Article V, Section A-1 of these By-Laws) an Annual Meeting of the organization will be held on Saturday of the week of the show. On the day preceding the Annual Meeting, members of the Board of Directors who are present shall draw up an agenda. The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order (as revised) shall apply in all cases to which they are applicable, and in all cases where they are not inconsistent with this Constitution and By-Laws. The order of business shall be as follows:

1. Reading of the minutes of the last meeting.
2. Reports of officers and committees
3. Old business
4. New business
5. Adjournment

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In the event the Secretary-Treasurer is not present, the officer in charge shall designate another member to keep minutes of the meeting, and copy of which will be promptly forwarded to the Secretary-Treasurer.

### **ARTICLE VII. DISTRICTS**

Geographic areas comprising the various districts are as follows:

FIRST DISTRICT—The states of Arizona, Nevada, California, Hawaii and all the countries west and southwest of the USA such as New Zealand, Australia and the Orient.

SECOND DISTRICT—The states of Washington, Oregon, Montana and Northern ½ of Idaho.

THIRD DISTRICT—The states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Missouri.

FOURTH DISTRICT—The states of Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and the countries of Central America and Mexico.

FIFTH DISTRICT—The states of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

SIXTH DISTRICT—The states of Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky.

SEVENTH DISTRICT—The states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, New York City & Vicinity and all the countries of Europe.

EIGHTH DISTRICT—The states of Utah, Wyoming and southern ½ of Idaho.

NINTH DISTRICT—The western ½ of Canada including the Provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba and the state of Alaska.

TENTH DISTRICT—The eastern ½ of Canada including the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

ELEVENTH DISTRICT—Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico and Nebraska.

TWELFTH DISTRICT—The states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York except New York City and Vicinity.

THIRTEENTH DISTRICT—The states of Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama and all the countries of South America.

FOURTEENTH DISTRICT—The states of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina and the District of Columbia.

### **ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS**

These By-Laws may be amended at any time by a majority of the voting members' votes cast after compliance with the provisions of Section A through E of Article V of the Constitution, except that under Section D only one news bulletin review is necessary.