

# CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE SMOKY MOUNTAINS HIKING CLUB, INCORPORATED

## **Knoxville, Tennessee**

Adopted as revised **August 14, 2021**, and with Charter Amendments of December 10, 1999-

### **ARTICLE I      NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the SMOKY MOUNTAINS HIKING CLUB, INCORPORATED.

### **ARTICLE II      OBJECTIVES**

To develop opportunities for enjoyment of the out-of-doors in the form of hikes and outings; to provide for related educational opportunities; to encourage and teach out-of-doors ethics; to encourage the conservation of wilderness and wildlife; to acquaint Club members and the public generally with the beauty and grandeur of the Great Smokies and other natural areas in this region; to edit, publish and distribute literature in furtherance of these objects; and to aid the federal agencies which manage the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Nantahala National Forest by helping to maintain the Appalachian National Scenic Trail in the 101.9 miles between Davenport Gap (TN/NC) and Wesser, NC.

### **ARTICLE III      MEMBERSHIP**

Any person of good character over the age of fifteen who subscribes to the Club's objectives shall be eligible for membership in the SMOKY MOUNTAINS HIKING

CLUB, INCORPORATED.

#### **ARTICLE IV      EXECUTIVE BOARD**

The Executive Board consists of a President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, Communications Director, Trust Liaison, and four Directors. These officers shall not be subject to removal from their terms of office except for cause.

The **President** acts as the chief executive of the Club, presiding at all meetings of the Executive Board and of the members. The President appoints all committees, stands as an ex-officio member of same, and is responsible for general supervision, direction, and active management of the business of the Club. The President acts to see that all resolutions of the Executive Board are carried into effect, enforcing the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws and the mandates of the Club-

The **Vice-President**, in the absence of the President, has all the powers of the President to carry out the functions of the President. The Vice-President acts to perform such other duties and has such other powers as prescribed by the Executive Board.

The **Recording Secretary** acts to keep the minutes of all meetings of the Executive Board, attends to all correspondence addressed to the Club and to the giving and serving of all notices of the Club by which the Executive Board, the members, and the committees are brought together for the transaction of business. The Recording Secretary performs all duties incident to the office of secretary, subject to the direction and control of the Executive Board.

The **Membership Secretary** acts to keep a roll of the membership and maintains a record of participation of members and visitors on Club sponsored hikes.

The **Treasurer** acts as custodian of funds for the Club. When necessary and proper, can endorse on behalf of the Club all checks, notes, or other evidence of money payable to the Club, and shall deposit the funds arising therefrom, together with all additional Club funds coming to the credit of the Club.

In addition, the Treasurer shall draw upon such funds only by order of the Executive Board, keep regular books of accounts containing a complete and accurate statement of the cash accounts and all other transactions involving the Club's funds, and account to the Club at its annual installation, or at any other time upon the request of the Executive Board. The Treasurer shall perform all duties incident to the office of treasurer subject, under the direction and control of the Executive Board.

The **Trust Liaison** acts to convey the SMHC interests to the Trust manager (The Trust Company) and to communicate Trust issues to the SMHC Board (for Conservation Trust) and the ATMC Finance Committee Chair (for AT Trust). Actions can include working with the Trust manager on distribution decisions by the SMHC Board and ATMC Finance Committee and arranging an opportunity yearly for Board and ATMC Finance Committee members to meet with a representative of the Trust manager.

The **Historian** maintains records of the activities and accomplishments of the Club, gathers, and preserves information germane to the Club's interests in the Great

Smoky Mountains and other nearby mountain areas, and such other duties as may be assigned as directed by the Executive Board.

The **Communications Director** oversees all Club communications, including the Newsletter, the Handbook, the Website, social media, and any other publicity activities, and responsible for implementing communications policies approved by the Executive Board.

The **Directors** engage in all decisions of the Executive Board. The business, interests, and transactions of the Club are to be managed and controlled by the Executive Board.

The terms of all officers will begin on January 1 of the year immediately following the installation.

A majority vote of the Board shall fill any vacancy occurring in the Executive Board.

A majority of the Executive Board will be necessary to constitute a quorum for the business transaction at any meeting.

The Executive Board appoints Club members to all administrative positions and committee chairs.

## **ARTICLE V      ELECTION AND MEETINGS**

The annual election of the officers of the Club shall be held in August each year at such time and place as designated in a notice to be mailed by the Newsletter Editor to each active member at least thirty days before the meeting.

The President appoints a Nominating Committee of five members, with two selected from the Executive Board and one designated as the Chair. The membership of the

Nominating Committee will be published in the annual Handbook. During the year in which it serves. The Nominating Committee acts to identify candidates to serve as club officers for the subsequent year. The Newsletter Editor will announce nominees through a notice *posted in the monthly newsletter at least thirty days* preceding the annual election. However, the committee's nominations do not preclude club members from making nominations for the respective offices at the meeting wherein the election is held.

The installation of officers shall occur at a meeting of the membership in December of each year.

Special meetings of the Club may be called by the President or by the Executive Board at any time.

## **ARTICLE VI DUES**

The regular dues of active members shall be \$20.00 due and payable yearly, according to the date the member(s) joined. Upon payment of said dues, each member is entitled to receive one copy of the annual Handbook and advance notices of the respective hikes and other meetings and activities of the Club.

Any person qualified under Article III who is a member of the family and household of an active member of the Club, may by the payment of annual dues of \$2.00 become a family member of the Club with all rights of active members with the exception of not receiving the annual Handbook or advance notices of club activities.

Supporting Membership dues of \$30.00 annually may be paid in lieu of regular dues by any active member who wishes to contribute financial support to the various Conservation efforts of the Club. All money contributed by

Supporting Members over \$20.00 (regular dues) will be used for conservation projects, including Appalachian Trail work.

Life Membership dues may be paid in the form of a one-time contribution of \$750.00 which will be retained in the Conservation Trust Fund in accordance with the Trust Agreement.

Family members, as defined above, may be included in a Supporting Membership or a Life Membership, dues-free. The surviving spouse of a Life Member may retain the Life Membership without further payment of dues.

#### **ARTICLE VII      DISCIPLINE**

Any member whose conduct violates any of the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws or the Code of Ethics may be expelled from membership by the Executive Board by a three-fourths vote of all the officers, provided that said member be given at least ten days' notice in writing of such pending action. Service of such notice may be made by personal delivery or by registered letter mailed to such member's last known address.

#### **ARTICLE VIII      AMENDMENTS**

The Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the membership of the Club, or any special meeting called for said purpose, provided that before any such meeting, a notice of proposed amendments to bylaws shall be published in the newsletter of the Club, posted on the Club website, or emailed to paid members of the Club ten days before such meeting.