

**SENECA LAKE DUCK HUNTERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

**(Revised 2-28-25)**

**Article 1 – Title**

This Organization hereby adopts the title: Seneca Lake Duck Hunters Association, Inc.

**Article 2 – Procedure**

The common rules of Parliamentary Procedure shall be followed at all meetings.

**Article 3 – Location**

The Associations' principal office shall be in Yates County, at 2188 Route 14, in the Town of Torrey, where the Club is located. Mailing address shall be PO Box 15, Dresden, NY 14441

**Article 4 – Purpose**

This Organization shall exist to improve Wildfowl and Wildlife Hunting and to conserve both in the area including and adjacent to Seneca Lake. It shall also be the purpose of this Organization to promote good sportsmanship and fellowship by providing Club facilities and activities to support Shooting Sports and Hunter Safety Education.

**Article 5 - Membership**

**Section 1**

An application must be filled out and if accepted by the Board of Directors shall be offered for final approval from the Membership. One (1) year's dues must accompany the application, and if approved after September 1st, shall include current and coming year.

The right of a Member to vote and all rights in the Association shall cease on the termination of their Membership. A Member's interest in any property, which the Association may own, or lease in the future, shall also cease upon termination of their Membership. Membership shall terminate upon death, voluntary withdrawal, or non-payment of dues by December 31st.

No Guest eligible for membership shall be admitted to the Club over three (3) times in one (1) year, unless voted on and approved by the Board of Directors with application pending, except for any special club functions open to the public. A Guest shall be defined as a person other than a Club member's spouse, significant other and his or her children under the age of eighteen (18).

**Section 2**

- a) Junior Membership - Persons between the ages of 12-18 years may be admitted as Junior Members and they shall have to pay annual dues equaling 50% of regular dues until they reach age eighteen (18). In order to be eligible for a Junior Membership, applicants are required to have a Parent or Guardian that is a current member in good standing. Junior

Members are required to be accompanied/supervised by an adult member when on club property and when engaged in shooting sports. Junior Members will have all club privileges granted to regular members except for the right to vote in member meetings and elections. Upon turning eighteen (18), they will be required to pay the annual regular member dues fee in effect at that time.

### **Section 3**

The total number of Members on the roster shall be unlimited.

### **Section 4**

Code of Conduct

- 1) Members are responsible for their own safety, their guests' safety, and the safeguarding of personal property.
- 2) Persons under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a member who will be responsible for that person. Children under the age of 12 must remain within sight of the responsible Member at all times.
- 3) Members must act responsibly and safely with respects to the use of all firearms and archery equipment.
- 4) Members will respect and properly use all Club equipment including, but not limited to, trap/skeet houses, archery targets and facilities.
- 5) Members should leave the premises clean and not leave litter on any Club property.
- 6) Members will respect others and avoid using profane or offensive language. A verbal warning will be given once then followed by disciplinary action for subsequent offenses.
- 7) Members should take reasonable measures to avoid physical altercations with others. Any type of altercation may be addressed under the grievance process in the Club's By-Laws. The Board of Directors reserves the right to make the final determination regarding any disciplinary action. Violence on Club property will not be tolerated.
- 8) Members will not commit theft of any type of Club property. This includes, but is not limited to, money, inventory or equipment.
- 9) Volunteers should receive their complimentary beverages while working from the bar only.
- 10) Under no circumstances will any Member or guest bring any alcohol onto the Club's premises.
- 11) Members who do not abide by this Code of Conduct or the stated By-Laws will be subject to disciplinary action or expulsion from the Seneca Lake Duck Hunters Association. Membership dues will be considered forfeit in the event of expulsion. The Board of Director's determination shall be considered final.

### **Article 6 – Membership Dues**

Annual dues of forty dollars (\$40.00) shall be paid by each member. (Charter and/or Life Members are not required to pay dues.)

Dues may not be raised except by a majority vote of the Members present at a Regular Monthly Meeting. Dues shall be due on or before December 31st of each year. (\*\* With exception as described below)

**\*\* Exception:** Members shall be allowed to pay their \$40.00 dues with an additional late fee of \$15.00, for a total of \$55.00 by the third Friday in January following the preceding December 31st deadline.

Members who do not pay dues by the third Friday in January following December 31st shall have their Membership and Guest privileges suspended.

In the event that a member has his/her Membership privileges suspended for non-payment of dues, they will not be allowed in as a Guest (\*with exception as described below) and will not be allowed to apply for Membership for the minimum period of one (1) year.

\*Exception: Members that have had his or her Membership privileges suspended, BUT are the spouse or significant other of a Member in good standing shall be allowed inside the Club as a guest when accompanied by said Member.

### **Article 7 – Firearms**

No firearms shall be allowed in the Club House unless authorized by the Board of Directors.

All Members shall be required to demonstrate safe firearm handling practices while on Club property. All violators will be asked to leave the premises and/or have their Membership privileges suspended.

### **Article 8 – Organization**

#### **Section 1**

The business and affairs of the Association shall be managed and controlled by a Board of Directors. No club member shall serve on the Board of Directors or hold any office in the Association unless the member shall be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.

The Board shall consist of four (4) Members elected as Executive Officers of the Association, two (2) Members appointed as Club and Bell Jar Stewards, and nine (9) other Members elected as Directors.

The membership at large shall in January of every year, at the Regular Monthly Meeting, elect the Members of the Board of Directors and the Executive Officers of the Association.

The Board of Directors shall also be authorized to spend up to four hundred dollars (\$400.00) on new purchases, excluding general maintenance and emergency repairs.

#### **Section 2** The Executive Officers shall be:

- a) A President who shall be elected by the Membership for a term of one (1) year.
- b) A Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer(s) who shall be elected by the Membership for a term of one (1) year each.
- c) A Club Steward, and a Bell Jar Steward, each of whom shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and shall remain in Office until they (individually) either resign

their respective duties, are terminated by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, or are deceased.

The Officers shall perform all duties incidental to their respective offices.

### **Section 3**

Directors shall be elected for a term of three (3) years. In the event a Director shall be elected to an executive office, another Member of the Membership at large shall be elected by the Membership to act as a Director until that term as a Director shall have expired.

### **Section 4**

The President shall also act as Chairperson of the Board of Directors and shall only vote in the event of a tie.

In the event an elected Board Member is also serving in one of the two appointed positions (Club Steward and Bell Jar Steward), that particular Board Member shall cast one (1) vote and one (1) vote only on any given procedural vote.

### **Section 5**

Seven (7) Members of the Board of Directors or any Members present at a Regular Monthly Membership Meeting shall comprise a quorum.

### **Section 6**

While serving as an elected Officer, appointed Steward or Director of the Association, membership dues will be reimbursed by the Association at the completion of each election year.

## **Article 9 – Meetings**

### **Section 1**

The Association shall elect and install Officers on the fourth (4th) Friday in January of each year. At the annual election meeting, a report concerning the past years' activities shall be given and any other business which shall properly come before the meeting.

### **Section 2**

Annual Elections of Officers and Directors – Absentee Voting

- a) Absentee ballots shall only be accepted from Members who are outside the State of New York at the time of elections or who are physically unable to attend the meeting on election night. (For reasons such as, but not limited to; employment, hospitalization, or enlisted in the Armed Services.)
- b) All prospective candidates shall announce their respective candidacy for office no later than the adjournment of the December Regular Membership Meeting so that absentee voters may cast ballots to be returned by mail to the Seneca Lake Duck Hunters Club BEFORE the January Annual Election Meeting.
- c) All absentee ballots shall be clearly marked (ABSENTEE BALLOT) on the outside of a sealed envelope and shall not be opened until election night.
- d) The Club shall not be responsible for late or lost mail.

- e) The Nominating Committee shall reserve the option of making final determination regarding all absentee voting validity/eligibility.
- f) There shall not be any nominations accepted from the floor during the Annual Election Meeting.

### **Section 3**

Other meetings of the Membership shall be held the fourth (4th) Friday of each month at 7:00 PM. at the Club House. Such meetings may be changed at the discretion of the President.

### **Section 4**

The Board of Directors shall meet at least once monthly. Such meetings shall be called by the President. In the event an Officer, Steward or Director shall;

- a) Be absent without excuse three (3) times in a twelve-month period, or;
- b) Be absent with/without excuse five (5) times in a twelve-month period, or;
- c) By death or resignation, said Officer, Steward, or Director shall forfeit his/her seat on the Board. The Board of Directors shall then appoint another Member to serve the balance of the unexpired term.

## **Article 10 – Committees**

The President shall appoint such committees as deemed necessary.

## **Article 11 -- Amendments**

All by-laws shall be subject to revision, amendment, alteration and/or repeal by the affirmative vote of the majority of the Members present at a regular monthly meeting, or at any special meeting called for the purpose, provided that a notice of such action and a notice of each proposed change shall have been included in the notice of the meeting.

## **Article 12 – Life Membership**

### **Section 1**

A Member, age sixty-five (65) or over, with fifteen (15) consecutive years paid Membership in good standing may be eligible for Life Membership. He/She needs approval by the General Membership at a Regular Monthly Membership Meeting.

### **Section 2**

The Board of Directors will have at their discretion, the right to recommend for Life Membership, a member reaching the age of fifty-five (55) and over thirty (30) years recognizable service. He/She needs approval by the General Membership at a Regular Monthly Membership Meeting.

### **Section 3**

Any Member that is accepted into the organization after October 26, 2012 shall only be eligible for Life Membership under the following three (3) criteria:

- a) Shall be recommended for Life Membership as recognition of exemplary service to the organization by the Board of Directors.
- b) Shall have accrued a minimum of fifteen (15) consecutive years membership in good standing.
- c) Shall be approved by a majority vote of approval from the membership.

### **Article 13 – Grievance**

Any Member in good standing may file a signed written grievance with the Secretary. Written statement shall include the name of the accused, the accuser, and the date, time and an account of the event that occurred. The Board of Directors shall review said grievance. Upon review, if grievance is substantiated, the accused shall be notified by registered mail (return receipt requested) of the date, time and place prior to a joint meeting with the accused. The accused has the right to appear before the Board of Directors, at their regular monthly meeting, to have their grievance heard. Then the grievance shall be presented to the General Membership at the Regular Monthly Membership Meeting. The decision of the Membership will be final and binding. Upon failure of the accused to appear before the Board of Directors, the decision of the Board will be final and binding.