THE BY-LAWS OF THE VAN WERT COUNTY OUTDOORSMEN ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED VAN WERT COUNTY, OHIO

ARTICLE 1 - NAME

The name of this organization shall be Van Wert County Outdoorsmen Association, Incorporated, an affiliated member of the National Rifle Association (NRA).

ARTICLE 2 - OBJECT

It shall be the objective of this association to operate as a nonprofit corporation for educational and scientific objectives as follows:

A. To provide opportunities for club members to engage in the sport of hunting and fishing.

B. To promote hunter safety.

C. To seek and procure better fishing and hunting opportunities for sportsmen.

D. To encourage the practice of good sportsmanship and compliance with local, state, and federal fish and game laws.

E. To support wildlife conservation programs and to assist wildlife management

F. To strengthen landowner-hunter cooperation and understanding.

G. To increase the knowledge and practice of hunting skills, marksmanship and other outdoor recreation skills, that is in harmony with the sports of hunting and fishing.

H. To encourage organized rifle, shotgun, pistol and revolver shooting among the Citizens of the United States residing in our community with a view toward a better knowledge on the part of such citizens of the safe handling and proper care of firearms, as-well as improved, marksmanship.

I. To educate and increase the proficiency of its members concerning scientific advancement and progress in the field of small arms including, but not limited to, the ammunition and accessories as well as the arms themselves.

J. To forward the development of those characteristics of honesty, good fellowship, self-discipline, team play and self-reliance which are the essentials of good sportsmanship and the foundation of true patriotism.

K. To be a NRA Gold Medal Club.

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L. To cooperate with other organizations which share the objectives stated in paragraphs “A” through “K”.

ARTICLE 3 - MEMBERSHIP

Any citizen of the United States may become a member of this organization on a one hundred (100%) percent vote of the members present at a regular meeting and on payment of the usual initiation fees, dues and other provisions of this Article. All officers must be eighteen (18) years of age or older. Junior [and associate] members may be enrolled and participate in the organization’s activities under supervision of [regular ~~adult]~~ members.

A. All members are required to have a **[~~full membership or a~~]** NRA **[~~Liberty~~]** membership **[so that we maintain our NRA Gold Club status]**.

B. Effective January 1, 2007 all members **[~~and associate members,~~]** are required to attend an orientation class that will include basic firearm safety and range rules. **[~~In addition, all members, and associate members, are required to pass (passing grade 80% and higher) a test as compiled by the Executive Committee~~]**.

C. All new members **[~~and associate members,~~]** are required to attend the orientation class **[~~and pass the test before a vote on their membership application can proceed~~]**.

[~~4. Members, and associate members, who can show evidence of firearm knowledge and safety, are exempted from the orientation and test provisions of this article.~~]

[~~5. Those exemptions are: National Rifle Association certified instructors; Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife - hunter education instructor; a law enforcement officer who carries a firearm for duty purposes; a classification card from the NRA of High Master, Master, Expert or Sharpshooter; having earned more than six (6) points toward a “Distinguished” rifle or pistol (As adopted on January 4, 2006); a badge from the Director of Civilian Marksmanship (CMP); IDPA Classification of marksman, sharpshooter, expert, or master; Or persons who have successfully completed an NRA firearms safety course.~~]

[**D. ~~6.~~**] Only NRA certified instructors in rifle, pistol, shotgun, **[Range Safety Officer (RSO)]**, personal protection in the home, or Division of Wildlife - hunter education instructors, or instructors approved by the Ohio Peace Officers’ Training Commission (OPOTC), are authorized to lead and instruct the orientation class, The Executive Committee has the final determination on who may lead and instruct any orientation class.

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The provisions of this article are meant to enhance and support the knowledge and attitudes necessary for the safe use and storage of firearms. It is the intent of the membership to improve the on-range safety for fellow members, and the surrounding community.

THE OUTDOORSMEN PLEDGE

I, as a member of The Van Wert County Outdoorsmen Association Incorporated being a citizen of The United States of America, will fulfill the obligations of good sportsmanship and good citizenship. I will obey all the rules of safe gun handing and insist that other members will do the same. I will support all the objectives, respect and protect the property of this Association.

ARTICLE 4 - CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

Life Member - Open to Annual Members who have met the dues requirements as set forth in Article 5 **[~~or without dues to an annual member who has maintained membership for the ten (10) consecutive years prior to said members sixty-fifth (65) birthday~~]**. Or without dues to an Annual Member and/or applicant who has been awarded of the Purple Heart or Congressional Medal of Honor for service in the United States military. Life Membership includes all privileges of the club as well as the right to vote for officers.

Annual Member - Open to persons eighteen (18) years of age or older who have been elected to membership and have met the dues requirements as set forth in Article 5. Annual membership **i**ncludes all privileges of the club as well as the right to vote for officers.

[~~Junior Member - Open to persons seventeen (17) years of age or under who have been elected to membership and have met the requirements as set forth in Article 5. Junior membership includes all privileges of the club as well as the right to vote for officers, A Junior Member shall not be eligible to hold any office.~~]

Associate Member - Open to **[household member ~~spouse and / or children~~]** of an annual or life member. Membership includes all privileges of the organization. An associate member shall not be eligible to vote or hold any office. The **[associate member ~~child or children shall~~ must**] be **[accompanied by the member ~~under the parent(s)~~]** when participating in activities of the organization.

[Guest – Are permitted when accompanied by a member. No more than two guests many accompany a member at a time. The member is responsible to see that the guest(s) obey all rules and regulations.]

Honorary Member - Open to individuals who have provided outstanding help and aid to the objectives of this organization. Honorary Membership shall be awarded

by vote of the Executive Committee and for the purpose of extending recognition and gratitude. Honorary Members shall have no vote in any proceedings of the organization nor be eligible to hold any office.

ARTICLE 5 - DUES

A. The annual dues of members shall be determined by majority vote of the membership attending the Annual Business Meeting. All dues shall be due and payable the first day of January of each year. Life membership dues shall be twenty times (20) times annual dues payable upon application, Associate membership shall not have dues. **[~~Junior membership dues shall be one half annual dues.~~]** Honorary membership shall not have dues.

B. An initiation fee (set at the annual meeting) will be required in addition to the required dues for any person who was not a member in the past calendar year.

C. Paragraph (B) above does not apply to associate, **[~~junior,~~]** and honorary members.

D. The organization by a majority vote of the total membership, by ballot, may levy upon the general membership such as assessments as shall be deemed necessary for the business of the organization. Proposals for assessments shall be submitted in writing at a regular meeting and shall be voted on at the next following regular meeting provided all voting members have been notified by mail ten (10) days in advance of the meeting at which it is to be voted upon.

E. No member of the Organization in arrears shall be eligible to vote or to enjoy any other of the privileges or benefits offered by this organization.

ARTICLE 6- MEETINGS

A. Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of the organization shall be held on the first Wednesday of December in each year. If the annual meeting shall not take place at the time fixed it shall be held within a reasonable time thereafter; and the officers shall hold over until their successors have been elected.

B. Regular meeting. The regular business meeting of the Organization for the transaction of ordinary business shall be held on the first Wednesday of each month except when said Wednesday falls on the legal holidays of the New Year and Independence Day at such time and place as may be fixed by the Executive committee.

C. Special Meeting. A special meeting of the organization may be held at any time upon the call of the President or upon the call of the Executive Committee, or upon the demand in writing, stating the object of the proposed meeting, and signed by not less than 20% of the members entitled to vote. Notice of the time, place and object of any Special meeting shall be given to all officers and members in good

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standing in writing by United States mail not less than seven (7) days prior to the date fixed for the holding of the meeting. The place of such special meeting shall be fixed by the Executive Committee.

D. At all meetings, six (6) members of the organization entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

E. The President and / or Vice President must be present or the meeting will be rescheduled. The only exception will be prior approval of the President for the Secretary to conduct the meeting.

ARTICLE 7 - OFFICERS

A. The officers of this organization shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Trap Officer, Range Officer, NRA Officer, **[Executive Officer,]** and **[~~Two (2)~~]** Trustees, who acting together, shall constitute the Executive Committee.

B. The term of office is one (1) year, beginning on the first day of January in each year, except for the offices of Secretary and Treasurer. These offices are held two (2) years, The office of Secretary's **[term begins the first day of January ~~is elected~~]** in "even" numbered years and the Treasurer's **[term begins the first day of January]** in "odd" numbered years. **[Officers must be an active member for a minimum of 2 years prior to election.] [~~The office of one Trustee is elected in "even" numbered years and the office of the other trustee is elected in "odd" numbered years.~~]**

C. Officers shall be elected by a majority vote, by ballot of the members in good standing at the annual meeting of the organization.

D. The Executive Committee shall have general supervision and control of all the activities of the organization. The Executive Committee may make agreements with other organizations and individuals to carry out objectives of the organization.

E. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held regularly at such time and place as the Executive Committee may determine. Special meetings may be held at any time on the call of the President or on demand, in writing, to the Secretary, by three (3) members of the Executive Committee.

F. Four members of the Executive committee shall constitute a quorum [**of Executive Committee meetings]**.

[~~G. Resignation of any officer may be accepted by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Executive Committee.~~]

[G. ~~H.~~] A vacancy in the Executive Committee may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Executive Committee. However, if more than one vacancy exists, a special meeting of the organization shall be called and new officers shall be elected to fill the vacancies until the date of the next annual meeting.

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ARTICLES 8 - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

A, President, The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the Executive Committee. He or She shall be a member ex officio of all regular and special committees, and shall perform all such other duties as usually pertain to his or her office,

B. Vice-President. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in his absence or at his or her request.

C. Secretary. The Secretary shall notify the members of the special and annual meetings, as required in Article 6. He or she shall keep a true record of all meetings of the Executive Committee and of the organization and have the - custody of the books and papers of the club, except the Treasurer's book of account. All applications for membership in the Organization shall be made to the Secretary. He or she shall be responsible for the collection of all fees and shall remit the same to the Treasurer, taking his proper receipt therefore. **[Records shall be maintained for seven years.]**

D. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have charge of all funds of the organization and place the same in such bank or banks as may be approved by the Executive Committee. Such money shall only be withdrawn by check signed by the Treasurer **[~~and the President~~]** for the payment of such bills as shall have been approved by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate account of all his or her transactions and render a detailed report with vouchers at any meeting of the Executive Committee when requested and a **[monthly ~~annual~~]** report to the organization at its **[monthly ~~annual~~]** meetings. **[The Treasurer is authorized to spend up to $300 for emergency expenses and report at the next monthly meeting.] [Records shall be maintained for seven years.]**

E. Trap. Officer. The Trap Officer shall have charge of all shotgun instruction and all shotgun related activities of the organization. He or she shall have the authority to appoint his or her assistants, He or she shall contract no bills without the authorization of the Executive Committee.

F. Range Officer. The Range Officer shall have charge of all rifles, pistol, and archery instruction and all rifle, pistol, and archery related activities of the organization, He or she shall have authority to appoint his or her assistants, He or she shall contract no bills without the authorization of the Executive Committee.

G. NRA Officer. The NRA Officer shall be the organizations liaison officer with the NRA, shall be responsible for maintaining all NRA membership records, shall be responsible for recruiting all new memberships, and shall be responsible in pursuing all grants available to the organization from the NRA.

H. Trustees, The Trustees shall perform such duties as established by the Executive Committee. **[The Trustees will be directed by the Executive Officer].**

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ARTICLE 9 - SPENDING AUTHORIZATION

A. Any officer may spend organization funds as indicated below.

B. All checks must to be signed by **[~~the President and~~]** the Treasurer. All cash expenditures or reimbursements require a "request for funds" form be submitted to the Treasurer and approved by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 10 - REQUEST FOR FUNDS FORM

A “Request for Funds” forms must be completed and the form returned to the Treasurer before any cash or reimbursement of funds may be released. Blank “Request for Funds” forms are available from the Treasurer.

ARTICLE 11 - ASSETS

The Secretary will maintain a written inventory of the organization’s assets and a separate written inventory of items being used by the organization on a "borrowed" basis. The list of borrowed items will include the name of the owner and expected return date, if any. The written inventories must be updated by the Secretary at least once each year, and the inventories must be as current as reasonably possible for the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE 12 - SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION

A. Any officer may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the members in good standing present at any special meeting called for this purpose. No vote on suspension or removal may be taken unless at least fifteen days notice in writing shall have been given to the officer of the reasons for his or her removal and of the time and place of the special meeting at which such ballot on his or her removal is to be taken. At such special meeting the officer shall be given a full hearing.

B. Any member may be suspended or expelled from the organization for any cause deemed sufficient by the Executive Committee by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members of the committee present at any regular meeting or special meeting. [No convicted felon may become a member. Any member convicted of a felony will be expelled.] No vote on suspension or expulsion may be taken unless at least fifteen days notice in writing shall have been given to the member of the charges preferred and of the time and place of the meeting of the Executive Committee at which such charges will be considered. At such meeting the member under charges will be accorded a full hearing.

C. Charges against any officer or member may be preferred by any member in good standing. They shall be in writing clearly stating the facts relied upon and accompanied by all affidavits or exhibits which are to be used in their support.

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Such charges shall be filed with the Secretary, who will immediately notify the President. The President will call a meeting of the Executive Committee to hear the charges. The Secretary will give at least fifteen days notice of the meeting to each 'member of the Executive Committee and to the accuser and to the accused which notice shall be in writing and will include a true copy of the charges and of the supporting affidavits and exhibits.

D. Any member suspended or expelled by the Executive Committee may appeal to the full membership of the Organization. Such appeal shall be made in writing to the Secretary who will notify the President. The President will call a special meeting of the Organization for the purpose of acting on the appeal. The Secretary shall give at least fifteen days notice in writing to all members of the organization in good standing stating the date, time, place and reason(s) for such special meeting. At the meeting of the full Organization the Secretary will read the original charges, the supporting affidavits, and will read or display the accompanying exhibits, and will read the minutes of the special meeting of the Executive Committee at which the charges were heard and action taken, A full hearing will be given to the accuser and the accused. A vote will be taken by ballot of the members in good standing present and a two-thirds vote shall be required to reverse the action of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 13 - MATCH RULES – RANGE RULES

All **[activities and]** competitions held by this organization will be governed by the rules and regulations lain down by the Van Wert County Outdoorsmen Association **[Executive Committee ~~prior to the event taking place~~. All Range Rules will be established by the Executive Committee]**.

ARTICLE 14 - COMMITTEES

Special or Ad Hoc Committees may be established by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 15 - PROXIES

[No proxy votes will be accepted for any issue. ~~A member may vote by proxy on issues requiring the approval of two-thirds of the total voting membership, provided the proxy is on a form prescribed by the organization and is filed with the Organization Secretary by the date specified~~].

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ARTICLE 16 - DEDICATION OF ASSETS

The property of this organization is irrevocably dedicated to the education and scientific purposes in the use of FIREARMS, as described by the Department of the Homeland Security, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Explosives. No part of its net income or assets shall ever inure to the benefit of any officer or member thereof, or to the benefit of any private individual. Upon the dissolution of this organization, its assets remaining after the payment of, or provision for the payment of all debts and liabilities shall be distributed to any organization which is organized and then in existence and **[~~As adopted on January 4, 2006~~]**

exempt under Section 501c (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding provisions of any further United States Internal Revenue Law.

A. The Executive Committee shall give notice (60) days prior for a special meeting of disbursement of the organization **[~~to the membership~~]**.

B. The Executive Committee will provide a list of possible organizations that qualify under this article to receive the organization's assets.

C. The Van Wert County Outdoorsmen Association assets will be dissolved among the qualifying organizations by two-thirds (2/3) of the majority vote by the members present at the meeting.

[D. No land parcels will be sold prior to an organization dissolution].

ARTICLE 17 - VIOLATIONS

Any member who fails to abide by and conform to the **[Range Rules and]** By-Laws may be expelled from membership by a two-thirds vote of the membership **[present at the meeting]**.

ARTICLE 18 - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The parliamentary authority for all proceedings not covered by these By-Laws shall be the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

ARTICLE 19 - AMENDMENTS

Any proposed amendments to these By-Laws may be introduced by any member of the organization at any regular meeting or special meeting called for the purpose. The amendment or amendments must be introduced in writing at a regular meeting and mailed to the membership fifteen (15) days prior to the next regular meeting where the amendment or amendments will be read and a vote taken to approve or reject them. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present will be required to pass the amendment or amendments to the By-Laws.

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