

# *Lorain County Township Association*

## **CONSTITUTION**

### ARTICLE I PREAMBLE

Local self-government is a vital principle of free institutions. This principle is recognized in the case of municipalities by giving Ohio cities the right to frame and amend their own charters. The people living in rural communities are likewise entitled to control their own local affairs. This can only be done by electing officials who are directly responsible to the voters and by entrusting to them the control of township affairs. Township officials are neighborhood officials and hence are directly responsible to the voters.

### ARTICLE II NAME

The name of this organization shall be AThe Lorain County Township Association @ (hereinafter the “Association”).

### ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

All township trustees and fiscal officers in Lorain and Cuyahoga Counties shall be entitled to become Active Members in the Association. Former trustees, fiscal officers and others interested in local self-government shall be entitled to become Associate Members. Membership shall be achieved upon acceptance of an application and the payment of Dues as determined from time to time by the Association.

### ARTICLE IV PURPOSE

The purpose of the Association shall be:

1. To improve township government.
2. To protect the township against any attempt to abolish it as a government unit.
3. To resist any effort at further centralization of governmental powers by depriving the township of any rights, duties or privileges which it now possesses.
4. To secure, through friendly relationship, a better acquaintance among township officials.
5. To promote a better knowledge of the rights and duties of township officials and by comparison of experiences, an interchange of ideas to arrive at the best way to discharge those duties.

6. To secure, from the General Assembly, legislation which will enable township government to function more efficiently.
7. To secure an equitable share tax and other revenue, such revenue to be expended on township roads and for other township purposes by township officials.
8. To enter into contracts with townships and other organizations to provide emergency radio and other emergency services to the townships and to purchase and otherwise provide all necessary equipment for said services.

#### ARTICLE V OFFICERS

1. The officers of the Association (the "Officers") shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and an Executive Committeeman. The Officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Association, which shall be held in November of each year. If there is no November meeting, the Annual Meeting shall be the first meeting thereafter. No one shall be eligible for nomination or election to an Officer position unless he/she is an Active Member who currently holds the position of township trustee or fiscal officer in a township in either Lorain or Cuyahoga County. Any Officer who ceases to hold such a position as township trustee or fiscal officer, shall also cease to be an Officer of the Association as of the same date he/she ceases to hold office as trustee or fiscal officer.
2. Nominations for each Officer position shall be presented at the Annual Meeting by a Nominating Committee appointed by the President of the Association. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five (5) Active Members of the Association from five (5) different townships. Additional nominations for any Officer position may be made from the floor by any Active Member. Once all nominations are closed, the election shall be determined by a majority vote of the Active Members present. Associate Members are not entitled to vote at any election for Officers.
3. No one shall be elected to the office of either President or Vice-President of the Association for more than two (2) consecutive one-year terms.

#### ARTICLE VI DUTIES

1. The Officers, aided by the committees, shall have general charge of the affairs of the Association and each of them shall discharge the duties usually incident to his/her office.
2. The PRESIDENT shall preside at the Annual Meeting, as well as all regular monthly meeting and other called meetings of the Association. The President shall be entitled to attend all meetings of committees.
3. The VICE-PRESIDENT shall perform the duties of the President during his/her absence or inability to perform the same, or in case of a vacancy in the office of President.

4. The SECRETARY shall keep the minutes and records of the Association and mail notices of meetings to members.
5. The TREASURER shall collect membership dues and pay out funds coming into her/his hands on order signed by the President.
6. The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN shall be the representative of the Association on the Executive Committee of the Ohio Township Association (the "OTA"). The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN is especially charged with the task of securing new members, enlisting the support of township, county and state officials, members of the legislature and other interested citizens. The President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and any other Active Member of the Association may be nominated and elected to fill the position of EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN.

#### ARTICLE VII COMMITTEES

To assist the Officers in carrying out the aims and purposes of the Association, there shall be a LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE and an AUDIT COMMITTEE.

1. The Legislative Committee shall be made up of four (4) or more Active Members appointed by the President. It shall be the duty of the Legislative Committee to have full charge of legislation affecting township interests and all such proposals may be referred to said committee during any meeting of the Association or at any time during the year by the President.
2. The Audit Committee shall be made up of four (4) or more Active Members, appointed by the President. It shall be the duty of the Audit Committee to supervise the finances of the Association and to assist in raising funds of the Association. The Audit Committee shall also examine the books of the Secretary and or Treasurer and make an annual report of the same to the Association.

Other committees may be formed and members appointed as found necessary by the President, subject to acceptance by the majority of Active Members in attendance at the Annual Meeting or any regular monthly special meeting of the Association.

#### ARTICLE VIII MEETINGS

Regular monthly meetings shall be held on the third Thursday of each month at a time to be determined by the President. Additional or special meetings may be called by the President at such times as the President deems advisable. A Roberts Rules of Order® shall be used as a guide and prevailing authority in the order of business.

The general order of business for the regular monthly meeting shall be:

1. President calling Association to order with Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll call of members by Secretary.
3. Approval of the Minutes of previous meeting.
4. Treasurer=s report of income and disbursements.
5. Reports of committees.
6. Addresses by persons selected by President.
7. General discussion by members.

#### ARTICLE IX DUES

The annual dues for Active Membership and Associate Membership in the Association shall be determined from time to time by majority vote of the Active Members present at any regular monthly meeting. The Active Membership dues shall include payment of OTA dues and a subscription to the OTA magazine. The Associate Membership dues shall include payment for a subscription to the OTA magazine.

DUES ARE DUE ON THE FIRST MEETING OF JANUARY EACH YEAR. The mailing list is prepared from the list of paid members.

#### ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended at the Annual Meeting or at any regular monthly meeting by a majority vote of Active Members present, providing those Active Members in attendance represent a majority of the townships in Lorain County and notification of the proposed amendment has been mailed at least two weeks in advance to all Active Members.

Originally Adopted \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
Revised, March 21, 1991  
Revised September 17, 2009