


Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club Constitution and Bylaws (Revised January 2015)

ARTICLE I. Name and Location

- Section 1.** The name of the corporation is the Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club, Inc.
- Section 2.** The club shall have a corporate seal which shall have inscribed thereon the name of the club and figures of several cage birds.
- Section 3.** The mailing address of the club shall be the address of the elected secretary.
- Section 4.** Meetings of the club shall be held in the greater Chicago area of the state of Illinois.

ARTICLE II. Purpose

Section 1. To advance the hobby of keeping birds.

 **Section 2.** To disseminate and exchange information beneficial to improving methods for the care and breeding of cage birds. To provide educational opportunities to the membership and to the general public on the care and breeding of caged birds.

Section 3. To promote a high standard of ethics and encourage honest dealing in all business transactions among breeders, fanciers and the general public. Such a standard is to be compulsory for members of this club.

Section 4. To encourage exhibitions and open contests for the purpose of comparison of all types of cage birds. (Revised October 2014)

Section 5. To provide adoption services to persons who can no longer care for their exotic caged bird(s) by accepting the bird(s) into the Greater Chicago Caged Bird Club's adoption program and to place said bird(s) in qualified homes at the discretion of the Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club's adoption committee.

Section 6. No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Section 7. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles, the Corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (i) by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or (ii) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

ARTICLE III. Membership

Section 1. Membership is open to individuals with an interest in cage birds who agree to follow the club Bylaws.

Section 2. Individuals wishing to be accepted into the club shall make their written application submitted to the membership committee. Their name is to be placed on the membership roll upon the payment of the prescribed amount of dues.

Section 3. Dues are collected on an annual basis, payable on the 1st of June. (Revised April 2014)

Section 4. There shall be six types of membership:

1. Regular
2. Regular Family
3. Junior – 18 years and under
4. Honorary
5. Senior – 62 years and older
6. Senior Dual – Both 62 years and older

Section 5. Honorary Life Membership may be granted by the club to those persons that have performed some special service to the club. Only one such membership may be granted per year.

Section 6. Nominations for Honorary Membership may be submitted to the Board of Directors, who will consider them and submit them to the membership at a regular meeting of the club for approval.

Section 7. ANY member violating the bylaws of the club, or whose conduct becomes detrimental to the best interest of the club, may be deprived of their rights and privileges as a member of the club. NO member can thus be deprived of their membership rights without a hearing and majority vote of the Board of Directors. Hearings on membership grievances must be held at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors of which the accused offending member has been given thirty days advance notice. Charges against any offending member may be brought by the Board of Directors or by written report to the Board of Directors by three members of the club. Accused members may appear before the Board of Directors in person to answer the charges brought against him/her. The Board of Directors shall have final decision to judge whether the offending member shall be expelled.

ARTICLE IV. Officers

Section 1. The Officers of the club shall be President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be elected annually by a majority of those voting in the election.

Section 2. The Board of Directors will designate the election meeting, usually the December meeting, and the membership shall be notified in the bulletin one month previous. All voting for Officers and Board Members will be done by secret ballot. Individual, Junior, and Honorary members shall get one vote each. Family memberships shall get two votes each. Members must be present to vote. For a member to vote in the election of Officers and Board Members, the member must be a current member as of the October General Meeting.

Section 3. The term of office for elected Officers shall be one year. All Officers may serve consecutive terms.

Section 4. To be eligible to serve in an elected office, or the two-year term of Director, one must have been a member in good standing for two years.

Section 5. No Officer shall receive payment for services rendered within the description of his office in the club.

Section 6. No duly elected Officer or member of the Board of Directors may hold Office in any other cage bird club that meets in the Chicago area.

Section 7. Duties:

President: The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the club and shall preside at all general meetings. The President shall see that the Bylaws of the club are enforced. He/she shall appoint such committees as are necessary to the functioning of the club. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

Vice President: The Vice President shall be in charge of the program for the club meetings. In the absence of the President, he/she shall assume the duties of the President.

Secretary: The Secretary shall record the minutes of the regular meetings and the meetings of the Board of Directors. ALL business correspondence shall go through the Secretary and a complete file kept of same. He/she shall provide journals material covering the activities of the club and such information of educational nature or interest to bird fanciers.

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall keep a record of the accounts of the club, accounting for all receipts and disbursements. These records shall be open to the membership at reasonable times for inspection. He/she shall publish an annual report to the active members. He/she shall have custody of the corporate emblem and affix the seal when necessary. The Treasurer or his designee shall sell and record club bands.

ARTICLE V. Board of Directors

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the elected Officers of the club, seven (7) members elected by popular vote and also one Alternate. The first year, seven members shall be elected: two for a term of two years and five for a term of one year.

Section 2. Every year thereafter, there shall be six (6) members elected, two (2) for terms of two years, three (3) for a term of one year and one as the Alternate. (Repealed to former January 2015)

Section 3. To be eligible for the Board of Directors, nominees must be twenty-one years of age or older and have been a member in good standing for one year. To be eligible for the two-year terms, nominees must be twenty-one years of age or older and have been a member for two years.

Section 4. Separate elections shall be held to fill the two-year terms and the one-year terms. The two members getting the highest popular vote in the election for two-year terms will be elected. The three members getting the highest popular vote in the election for the one-year terms will be elected. The person receiving the fourth highest popular vote in the election for the one-year term will serve as the Alternate to the Board of Directors.

Section 5. The Alternate will attend Board meetings and offer input, but shall not vote on Board decisions.

Section 6. The Board shall appoint their own chairman. Nominees for the Chairman must have one year of previous experience on the Board of Directors. The Chairman is to inform the Officers and Board members as to the time and place a meeting is called. In the absence of the President and Vice President at a regular meeting, the Chairman of the Board will fill the President's role.

Section 7. If the office of any Director shall become vacant by reason of death, resignation, disqualification or inability to act, or **by absenting themselves from a regularly called Board meeting three consecutive times, the Board of Directors shall declare the office vacant and the alternate will fill the position for the remainder of the current year.** In the event that the Alternate fulfills the first year of a vacant two-year Board member's term, a special election will be held at the next regularly scheduled election to fulfill the second year of that term.

Section 8. **The majority of the acting members of the Board (six) shall constitute a quorum to transact business.**

Section 9. A minimum of four regularly scheduled Board meetings must be held per year. Others may be held at the discretion of the Board. The President or Chairman of the Board may call special meetings needed.

Section 10. Board meetings are to be closed meetings FOR BOARD MEMBERS ONLY!

Section 11. The proceedings of the Board shall be fully reported to the membership at a regular meeting. They shall have the right to accept or reject the report in its entirety or any part of it after due discussion has been allowed by the presiding officer.

Section 12. **The Board of Directors shall have the power and authority expressly conferred upon it by these Bylaws subject to the statutes of the State of Illinois and the provisions of the Certificate of the Organization.**

Section 13. The Board of Directors shall have the power to formulate the policies and plans of the club. The Board shall be responsible for the formulation of plans for raising money for the conduction of the club's activities.

Section 14. The Board of Directors shall have the power to appoint a superintendent of the show (Show Manager) and other show officials. The superintendent of the show shall have charge of the staging and management of the annual show.

ARTICLE VI. Amendments

Section 1. Amendments to the Bylaws may be filed in writing to the Board of Directors, who will consider them and submit them to the membership at a regular meeting of the club for adoption or rejection.

Section 2. It shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the members present to adopt such amendments.

ARTICLE VII. Meeting Protocol

Section 1. Regular meetings of the club shall be held on the third Friday of each month at 8:00 p.m., unless notified in a previous bulletin.

Section 2. Fifteen members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. The rules contained in the *New Robert's Rules of Order* shall guide the club in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws of this club. The basic agenda shall be as follows:

1. Roll call of officers present
2. Reading of the minutes of previous meeting
3. Reading of treasurer's report
4. Application for membership
5. Report of officers and committees
6. Unfinished business
7. New business
8. Discussions, lectures, etc.
9. Social

ARTICLE VIII. Dissolution

Section 1. Upon dissolution of the Corporation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the Corporation, dispose of all the assets of the Corporation exclusively for the purposes of the Corporation to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Directors shall determine; provided, however, that should the Board of Directors fail to agree upon a distribution then the assets shall be disposed of by the appropriate court of law, to such organization or organizations as the court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for exempt purposes.

ARTICLE IX.

Section 1. The standing committees of the club shall be: (Revised April 2009)

1. Membership
2. Hospitality
3. Show
4. Bird Fair
5. Adoption