



## By Laws

### ARTICLE I: NAME AND LOCATION

Section 1: The name of this Chapter shall be:

The Heart of Ohio Santas a chapter International Brotherhood of Real Bearded Santas (IBRBS), an international organization formed under California state law.

Section 2: The organization will be organized under the laws, rules and regulations of the State of Ohio

### ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

Section 1: The objective and purpose of Heart of Ohio Santas is:

- A) to support, mentor and promote professional development;
- B) to be an avenue for social networking for Santas, Mrs. Clauses and those within the community whom appear and perform in the Spirit of Christmas and;
- C) to strive to offer Santa services to deserving organizations.

### ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1:

- A) Full membership may be open to any person with a real beard, portraying himself as Santa Claus.
- B) Full membership may be open to any person portraying herself as a Mrs. Claus.
- C) Full membership may be offered to the wife of a full member Santa.
- D) Full members must agree to and at all times abide by the tenets of IBRBS as published on website.

Section 2:

- A) Associate membership may be open to all individuals portraying a Christmas themed character and agreeing to abide by the goals and tenets of IBRBS.
- B) Associate membership may be open to the spouse of a full member, or a deceased full member, and who agrees to abide by the goals and tenets of IBRBS.



### **Section 3:**

A) Annual dues, as approved by a vote of full members of the Heart of Ohio Santas, shall be due from each full member at the beginning of each calendar year.

B) A Member whose dues are current, has a background check, and has liability insurance will be considered a full member.

1) Full members may take advantage of all membership benefits.

2) Full members will have the right to a vote in any election presented to the membership.

3) Full members may hold elected office.

C) Associate members may enjoy many benefits of membership and participate in IBRBS events.

1) Associate members will not owe Heart of Ohio Santas dues.

2) Associate members will not have a vote in Heart of Ohio Santas elections.

3) Associate members cannot hold elected office, but they can participate as volunteer members in Heart of Ohio Santas committees and appointed positions.

### **Section 4:**

Full members and Associate members who fail to abide by the goals and tenets of Heart of Ohio Santas may be expelled by a 2/3 vote of the Heart of Ohio Santas Full Members.

#### **A) Member Responsibilities**

1) All members and associate members must maintain lawful and acceptable public behavior that always reflects well on the image of Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus

2) All members must provide accurate contact information to the Secretary to maintain records.

3) If at any time a member or associate member has been charged with a legal crime their membership will be suspended until the outcome is finalized through the court system. Members must self-report if this situation occurs.

4) Members personal information needs their approval for dissemination on the Heart Of Ohio Santas Website

5) Members must submit a new application and background check each year when paying dues

6) No personal information is to be sold or used as an outside agent for another Santa



## **ARTICLE IV: Advisory Board**

### Section 1: Elected Officers

- A) The following officers will be elected by full members; Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Representative
- B) Officers shall be elected by vote of the membership.
  - a. The term of office of each elected Officer shall be one (1) year and for as many succeeding terms as they may be re-elected.
  - b. To ensure continuity of leadership, the chairman cannot hold this office for more than (3) years in succession.
  - c. All candidates for Officer Positions shall have been a member in good standing for at least two full calendar years prior to the election. (This will be exempt until 2019)
  - d. No members may hold more than one (1) elected office at a time
  - e. Terms will start on January 1<sup>st</sup> and end on December 31<sup>st</sup>

### Section 2: Advisory Board

- A) The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Representative shall form the Advisory Committee
- B) The advisory committee is responsible for maintaining all documentation, following guidelines and accounting procedures
- C) The advisory committee will meet either in person or via conference at least 3 times per calendar year
- D) The advisory board will make recommendations to the membership there are no voting privileges for the advisory committee. Votes will be conducted by the full membership on all policies and procedures.
- E) All contracts and checks must have two signatures (Chairman and Treasurer) any checks over \$100 must have full membership approval.

## **Article V: Elections**

### Section 1: Procedures

- A) Elections are held in an open meeting in October of each year, full members will have the opportunity to vote in person or via the website (deadline to vote on line is 1 day prior to the October meeting date)
- B) Newly elected officers shall start their tenure on January 1<sup>st</sup> on the New Year
- C) Nominations and election committee will consist of the Advisory Board
- D) Nomination forms must be received by August 1<sup>st</sup> by the secretary
- E) The election committee will verify each nominee meets the criteria to serve
- F) All nominations will be presented at the September meeting



#### Elections Continued

- G) All ballots will be distributed filled out and then counted in secret and results will be announced at the October meeting.
- H) The nominee with the highest vote total will be elected to the corresponding office
- I) In the event of a tie a coin will be tossed to declare the winner

#### Section 2: Vacancies

- A) In the event of a vacancy from an elected office a special election will be called and held following the protocol listed above.
- B) Members will once again nominate and then vote either online or in person at the next regularly scheduled meeting
- C) The newly elected member will fill and complete the term of the position they were elected to

#### Section 3: Removal from Office

- A) Officer may resign at any time during their tenure, a reason is not needed for the resignation, the resignation must be in writing and addressed to the membership of Heart of Ohio Santas.
- B) The membership may request the removal of an Advisory Member. To remove a member at least 33% of the full membership must agree to this and must be formally written to the Advisory Committee.
- C) A special election as stated above will begin immediately

### **Article VI: Finances**

- A) Any request for changes to dues must be approved by 50% of voting members
- B) Each meeting a finance report will be given to members
- C) All expenses not included in the annual budget over \$50 will need a vote from the membership
- D) During the October meeting the next year's budget will be proposed and voted on by membership for approval

### **Article VII: Changes and Interpretations**

- A) Any changes and interpretations to Heart of Ohio Santas By Laws must be approved by a membership vote.
- B) Submit suggestions and proposed changes in writing to the Chairman at least fourteen (14) days prior to the next scheduled meeting date.
- C) The By Laws should be reviewed every five (5) years



### **Article VIII: Logo and Equipment Usage**

- A) Any use of the Heart of Ohio Santos Logo for personal profit will not be allowed. This logo may be used to identify themselves as a full member, associate members may not use the logo in any matter
- B) All equipment that is owned by Heart Of Ohio Santos must be signed out to through the Secretary. Equipment that is lost, damaged or stolen while in your possession must be replaced by the member that signed it out.

### **Dues: Full Members**

- A) Each member of the Heart of Ohio Santos will pay an annual due of \$25.00 at the beginning of each calendar year
- B) Any members that are on fixed income or enduring hardship may submit a letter of exemption to the advisory board. The advisory board will either approve or decline this hardship letter on a case by case basis.

### **CERTIFICATION**

Bylaws dated May 16, 2017 were amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the International Brotherhood of Real Bearded Santos, Heart of Ohio Chapter. members in good standing effective June 1, 2017.