

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE
CONNECTICUT LIGHTER THAN AIR SOCIETY

Revised 2010

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be:

THE CONNECTICUT LIGHTER THAN AIR SOCIETY.

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES

The purpose and objectives shall be to advance and promote a professional attitude in the sport of ballooning. The Society shall be dedicated to safety, education, communication and consideration among its members and the general public.

ARTICLE III – POLICY

The Society shall be non-profit, non-sectarian and non-partisan.

ARTICLE IV – POWERS

The Society shall have the power to perform all lawful acts that may be deemed necessary; for the proper and successful execution of the objectives and policies for which it was organized. These acts are to include, but not limited to:

- (a) Conducting and organizing meetings for the members and open to the general public.
- (b) Issuing a newsletter.
- (c) Organizing educational presentations and seminars.

ARTICLE V – LIMITATIONS OF POWERS

5.1 The Society is not operated for the penury profit of any one group of its members; no part of the income of the Society shall be payable to or available for the personal benefit of any member or any other person or group. No salary or compensation shall be paid to any member for performance of any service in keeping with the policies and objectives of the Society except where specifically approved by; a majority of the officers, but limited to \$100.

5.2 Club members in good standing may be allowed to purchase Club products with logos at listed Club prices and sell them at their discretion.

5.3 The Society shall not contribute to, affiliate with, or hold membership in any society, association, federation, club or other organization without the approval of the majority of the membership.

5.4 The Society shall not recommend, endorse, or approve any product, service, publication, person, or entity for the promotion of private interest, without the prior approval by a majority of the membership as shown by returned ballots.

ARTICLE VI – GOVERNMENT

6.1 The Society shall be governed by its constitution and by-laws to the extent consistent with its policies and objectives.

6.2 All meetings of officers and of the general membership shall be conducted by the rules of procedure set forth in “Robert’s Rules of Order,” as revised.

ARTICLE VII – MEMBERSHIP

7.1 Membership in the Society shall be open to and available to any and all individuals irrespective of race, color, creed, or national origin.

7.2 Membership shall consist of the following:

(a) Individual membership – shall consist of any one adult who is:

(i) A non-pilot, 14 years or older.

(ii) A holder of a valid private or commercial certificate with a lighter-than-air rating.

(b) Family membership – shall consist of one or two adult members and any of their children up t the age of 14 years and living in the same household.

(c) Honorary membership – shall be presented, by vote of the general membership, to any one person in recognition of that person’s exceptional contribution to the sport of ballooning.

(d) Associate membership – shall consist of spouse/partner residing in the same household as an individual member in good standing.

7.3 Any member, whose actions(s) violates the stated policies and objectives of the Society, is subject to termination of his/her membership.

7.4 Any termination, under Section 7.3, will need the consent of the majority of the membership. Any termination decision will be sent, in writing, immediately to the individual.

(a) The informed member shall have sixty (60) days to respond, in writing, to the secretary.

(b) Termination is not cause for refund of the dues.

7.5 Membership shall entitle the individual to all benefits, courtesies, and privileges of the Society except as noted in Article 9.1. These privileges shall be:

(a) Subscription to any bulletin or publication of the Society.

(b) The right to participate in all Society elections and decisions.

(c) The right to attend all general and business meetings.

(d) The right to vote in Society elections and decisions.

(e) The right to be identified with the Society.

7.6 Membership applications shall be by written request to the Society or by nomination by a member at a general meeting.

7.7 Voluntary termination will be accepted in writing by the Society.

ARTICLE VIII – DUES

- 8.1 Dues are payable upon acceptance to membership and thereafter January 1.
- 8.2 The dues shall be set annually, upon approval of a budget, by a vote of the general membership.
- 8.3 The dues shall be zero for an honorary member.
- 8.4 Any member who does not pay their dues within sixty (60) days of January 1, and after receiving one reminder from the Society, shall be terminated by the Society without the necessity of a general vote.

ARTICLE IX – VOTING

- 9.1 All members present and in good standing are entitled to vote on all matters pertaining to the Club according to the classification of membership.
 - (a) Each individual member shall be entitled to one (1) vote on all matters.
 - (b) Each family shall be entitled to one (1) vote within the same guidelines as for individuals.
 - (c) Honorary members shall have no vote.
 - (d) Associate members shall be entitled to one (1) vote within the same guidelines as for individuals.
 - (e) The spouse/partner of a member in good standing shall be entitled to one (1) vote if he/she purchases a voting privilege for a nominal fee.
- 9.2 A majority vote of those present and eligible shall decide all issues, except as otherwise set forth herein.
- 9.3 With the exception of the election of officers, the president pro tem shall not vote on an issue unless there is a tie. In that event his/her vote shall act to break that tie vote.
- 9.4 Voting procedure shall be at the direction of the president with these exceptions:
 - (a) The election of officers and amendments to the by-laws shall be accomplished by written ballot.
 - (b) Mail- in ballots shall be accepted by the secretary for the election of officers, amendments to the by- laws, and issues requiring a vote by the membership and must be received prior to the voting date.
 - (c) Notification of dates for voting and submitting absentee ballots shall be published in the newsletter.

ARTICLE X – FINANCE

- 10.1 The fiscal year shall run from January 1 to December 31.
- 10.2 An auditing committee of three (3) members shall be appointed at the first meeting of the year and they shall audit the records of the past year and report their findings during the second meeting of the year.
- 10.3 All financial records shall be available upon written request to the president of the Society

10.4 A checking account will be maintained for the use of the Society for all functions and needs. The account shall require the signatures of the treasurer and any other officer for any withdrawal that exceeds \$200.00. For any withdrawal that is less than \$200.00, the treasurer is authorized for withdrawals without requiring the signature of any other officer.

ARTICLE XI – OFFICERS

11.1 The officers shall be president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.

11.2 The term of office shall be one (1) year.

11.3 The officers shall assume their duties corresponding to the fiscal year.

11.4 committees may be appointed from time to time as deemed necessary, by the Society, to carry out the various functions of the Society.

ARTICLE XII – NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS, AND TERMS OF OFFICE

12.1 Officers shall be elected at the last annual business meeting.

12.2 Nominations shall be made and seconded during the second to last meeting of the year. Additional nominations can be submitted in writing, to the secretary, by October 10th. A ballot will be compiled by the secretary and published in the October newsletter. Voting will take place during the last annual meeting.

12.3 All officers shall be eligible to serve for no more than three (3) consecutive terms in the same office.

12.4 Nominees for president:

(a) Shall be a member in good standing of the Society for at least one (1) year.

(b) Shall be a pilot member.

(c) Shall have served one (1) term as an officer and/or served as a committee member for one (1) year or the life of the committee.

12.5 Nominees for vice-president shall have been a member in good standing of the Society for at least one (1) year preceding their nomination.

12.6 In the event of a vacancy of office, nominations will be held at the next scheduled business meeting and voted on by a special mailing.

ARTICLE XIII – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

13.1 The president shall:

(a) Be the principal officer of the Society.

(b) Preside at all meetings of the Society.

(c) Appoint committee chairpersons with the approval of a majority of the officers.

13.2 The vice-president shall:

(a) Perform all the duties of the president in the absence of the president.

(b) Coordinate efforts and insure communication between all committees.

(c) Be responsible for the duties of any temporarily vacated office until such time as a new officer is elected.

(d) Chair the education committee.

13.3 The secretary shall:

(a) Take and record all minutes of the proceedings of all meetings.

(b) Conduct the correspondence of the Society.

(c) Preserve, in a permanent file, all records and letters of value to the Society and its officers.

13.4 The treasurer shall:

(a) Have charge of all monies of the Society and report thereon at all meetings, if requested.

(b) Collect all dues from the members.

(c) Pay all bills upon authorization of the president or the majority of the officers.

(d) Keep an itemized record, in a permanent file, of all receipts and expenditures.

(e) Develop an annual projected budget and submit it to the officers.

ARTICLE XIV – MEETINGS AND QUORUMS

14.1 A meeting of the incumbent and newly-elected officers shall be held each December and as required by the officers. A meeting of the officers and the committee chairpersons shall be held each February.

14.2 Regular business meetings shall be held at least six (6) times per year (bimonthly) unless otherwise ordered by the officers.

(a) The dates and times of the regular business meetings shall be specified at the beginning of the year and published in the newsletter.

(b) Any other meetings called by the officers shall be labeled as a special meeting.

(c) The regular business meeting in January shall be used to establish committees, outline goals and establish programs for the current year.

14.3 Meetings of the officers shall be held at the request of the respective chairperson.

14.4 Meetings of the committees shall be held at the request of the respective chairperson.

14.5 A quorum for all meetings shall consist of a minimum of one (1) officer and eleven (11) voting members to be present within thirty (30) minutes of the published starting time.

14.6 A quorum of an officer's meeting shall consist of a majority of the officers.

14.7 Each business meeting shall have an agenda. Any issues not on the agenda shall be heard after all agenda items are complete and on a time-allowed basis.

ARTICLE XV – AMENDMENTS

15.1 Amendments to this document shall be presented, in writing, by the officers or by any other member present. Formal proposal to the general membership requires approval of a majority of the members present.

15.2 All proposed amendments shall be published in the newsletter at least one (1) time before a vote can be taken. Notice must include time and place vote is to be taken.

15.3 Proposed amendments require approval by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the responding membership, to be tabulated at a business meeting.

15.4 The amendments shall become part of this document on the movement of passage by the membership.