

The High Plains Falconers: CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the High Plains Falconers. Falconry defined as "The art of training falcons to hunt wild game or the sport of hunting with falcons", shall be the only concern of this organization to the exclusion of all others.

Section 2. The purpose of the High Plains Falconers shall be:
to foster and protect the tenets, practices and cultural heritage of traditional falconry, To freely pass on the field craft, hawkmanship and etiquette pertaining to game hawking in it's traditional form.

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. All prospective members shall submit an application with a minimum of three references along with a resume detailing their falconry career.

Section 2. Applications and resumes shall be submitted to the committee for investigation and evaluation.

Section 3. If the candidate's submission is found in order, the hunt master will be directed to evaluate the prospects proficiency in the field and send a report and recommendation to the committee.

Section 4. The committee will then vote on the prospect and by a unanimous vote only will the prospect be admitted, and assigned to one of the three tiers of membership based on the prospects skill level as determined by the investigation and recommendations of the committee and the hunt master.

Section 4A there shall be 3 tiers of membership Master, General and Apprentice.

Section 5. Master members shall consist of falconers that have demonstrated proficiency with at least 5 species of raptors. Proficiency shall mean success in hunting as validated by the hunt master and with a unanimous vote by the committee for admission or advancement.

Section 6. General members shall consist of falconers that have shown a proficiency with at least 3 species of raptors as validated by the hunt master and voted on by the committee.

Section 7. Apprentice members shall be any interested party whether in possession of a falconry license or not.

ARTICLE II B MEMBERSHIP, BENEFITS, DUES

Section 1. Master members may vote on all issues and elections presented to them by the committee. They shall be the only consideration for officer, committee and hunt master positions. Their annual dues shall be \$50.00.

Section 2. General members may vote for officer candidates only. They shall neither run for nor hold any office nor vote for committee positions or policy issues. Their annual dues shall be \$40.00.

Section 3. Apprentice members shall have no vote or hold any office but are entitled to all publications, participation in all functions. They may be raised to general when they meet the criteria. Their annual dues shall be \$30.00.

ARTICLE III OFFICERS AND THE COMMITTEE

Section 1. President

Candidates for president shall be nominated by the committee from the Master members list and elected to office by a majority vote of the master and general members.

Duties shall be to preside over business meetings, to chair the political action committee, to be a part of all negotiations with the DOW and to be the general spokesperson for the club.

Section 2. Vice President

Candidates shall be nominated by the committee from the master members list and elected to office by a majority vote of the master and general members.

Duties shall include assuming the duties of the president when the president is incapacitated or absent. To act as a liaison between the master members and the general/apprentice members to facilitate a learning environment. To be available to assist the political action committee.

Section 3. Treasurer

Candidates shall be nominated by the committee from the master members list and elected by a majority vote of the master and general members.

Duties shall include keeping track of and logging all income and expenditures and reporting the same to the membership on a quarterly basis. To assist in all fundraising activities of the club. To oversee all expenditures as directed by the committee. To be responsible for the bank and checking accounts and to maintain a balance sheet for the same.

Section 4. Secretary

Candidates shall be nominated by the committee from the master members list and elected by a majority vote of the master and general members.

Duties shall be to record all minutes of meetings and disseminate them to the membership, to field all requests for membership or advancement and forward the paperwork to the committee, to craft correspondence and mail on behalf of the committee and officers, to collect dues and forward to the treasurer, to mail membership cards to the membership.

Section 5. The Committee

Shall consist of 5 master members, replacement candidates shall be nominated by the remaining committee members from the master members list and shall be elected by a majority vote of the master members ONLY.

Duties shall include; nominating all officer and committee candidates. Reviewing and researching all prospective members and promotion of current members and voting on same, shall direct the officers and PAC on all issues concerning the club, to appoint the Hunt Master. To

appoint the members of the PAC and assure there are at least 2 Pac members present at all negotiations. They shall direct the PAC on ALL issues to be negotiated. NO action shall be taken by the officers or PAC without a majority vote of the committee, including but not limited to all social events, hunts, negotiations, donations, affiliations or communications. Appoint members to special duties.

Section 6. Terms of service for officers and the committee members shall be until the individual resigns or is deceased.

Section 7. The Hunt Master

Shall be appointed by the committee by unanimous vote and shall serve for 5 years.

Duties shall include observing and evaluating as well as verifying all field requirements of new members and those requesting advancement, communicating the findings in a report to the committee. Evaluating venues for field meets and reporting to the committee. Investigating and prosecuting if needed any charges of misconduct on the part of members.

Section 8. Web master and the editor of the publication

Shall be appointed by a majority vote of the committee and shall serve at their discretion.

ARTICLE IV REMOVAL OR DEMOTION OF MEMBERS AND REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Any and all charges of unethical, criminal behavior or incompetence in the field or mew shall be brought to the committee.

Section 2. The committee shall direct the Hunt Master to investigate. Once the investigation is complete the Hunt Master will report the finding to the committee.

Section 3. If cause is found for potential removal or demotion a summons shall be sent to the accused to appear before the committee.

Section 4. The accused shall select a Master member to represent the accused. The Hunt Master shall represent the club.

Section 5. Once all evidence is heard the committee will vote and by a unanimous vote only will the accused be removed from the club or demoted.

Section 6. Reasons for removal shall be:

- 1) Criminal behavior i.e. a felony conviction.
- 2) Cruelty to a possessed raptor as defined by common falconry practices.
- 3) A conflict of interest concerning the club and its Activities.
- 4) Usurping the authority of the committee or officers.

Section 7. Reasons for potential demotion shall be the entire above but to include a demonstration of incompetence in the field or mew.

ARTICLE V ACTIVITIES FUNCTIONS AND CO-OPS

Section 1. The High Plains Falconers shall endeavor to host at least 1 Banquet, 1 Sky Trail, Field Trail and 1 Field meet. The dates, times and places shall be at the discretion of the committee.

Section 2. All members are entitled to attend or participate in these activities.

Section 3. The public shall be encouraged to attend but at a fee determined by the committee.

Section 4. The committee and officers shall undertake to provide to the entire membership a form of co-operative pricing on such things as but not limited to, frozen quail, leather, equipment, veterinary services, dog training, etc.