

**Erie County
Conservation League**

Milan, Ohio

By-Laws

Amended November, 2010

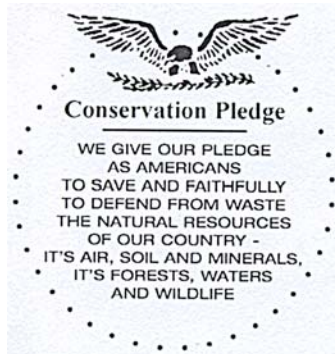


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Article I
Purpose

Section 1. The legal and known name of the Organization shall be "The Erie County Conservation League, Inc."

Section 2. The purpose of the Erie County Conservation League, Inc., shall be the conservation of soil, water, air, and wildlife; improvement of hunting, fishing and outdoor activities; support of firearms ownership and teaching safe, responsible use of firearms; to encourage an active interest in legislation which affects the hunter, the fisherman and the lover of the outdoors.

It shall also be the purpose to acquire by purchase, lease, or otherwise, real estate or property for a clubhouse and use the same for the accommodation, convenience, education and entertainment of its members; and doing any and all things necessary or incidental thereto.

Article II
Meetings

Section 1. **Regular Meetings** - The regular meeting of the members of the Erie County Conservation League, Inc., Milan, Ohio, shall be held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. If the first Thursday is a legal holiday, the meeting shall be held on the second Thursday.

Section 2. **Special Meetings** - Special meetings of the membership may be held at any time upon call of the President, or by a majority of the Board of Trustees.

Section 3. **Board of Trustees Meetings** - The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees shall be held during the week of the monthly membership meeting and prior thereto. The Board at its discretion shall choose the specific day and time in advance.

Section 4. **Notice of Meetings** - There shall be no notice given for a regular meeting of the organization except that any expenditure over \$10,000. or proposed changes of dues or initiation fees require a majority of the votes cast at a regular meeting, and notice must be given by mail at least one week and no sooner than three weeks before the meeting at which the expenditure or change will be discussed.

a. In the case of special meetings of the membership, the members shall be notified by mail (at least one week and no sooner than three weeks before the meeting) of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting.

b. Notification by newsletter within the required time constraints shall fulfill all “written” notification requirements.

c. In the case of special meetings of the Board of Trustees, notification must be given at least four days but no more than 2 weeks prior to the meeting. Notification need not be in writing.

Section 5. **A Quorum** - A quorum for any regular or special meeting of the membership shall consist of those members present. A quorum for the Board of Trustees meetings, both regular and special meetings, shall be six members of the Board of Trustees.

Article III Officers

Section 1. The officers of the Organization shall be President (who shall serve for no more than three consecutive terms), Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, and Sergeant-at-Arms. Further, there will be six trustees, three elected annually to two-year terms.

Section 2: The responsibilities of the individual officers shall include (but not be limited to) the following:

a. **President** - The President shall preside at all meetings of the members and of the Board of Trustees; sign all necessary legal papers and vouchers for the Board of Trustees and for the Organization where authorized to do so; perform all duties as may be required from time to time by the Board of Trustees; and perform other duties usually incidental to such office.

b. **Vice-President** - The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in his absence or at his request.

If both the President and the Vice President are absent or unable to perform the duties of the President, the Board of Trustees shall appoint a President Protem.

c. **Recording Secretary** - The Recording Secretary shall keep a proper record of all meetings of the general membership and of the Board of Trustees. The Recording Secretary shall also be responsible for any required notices to the Board of Trustees. At the expiration of his or her term in office, shall deliver all records, books, papers and property of the Organization to the new Recording Secretary.

d. Financial Secretary - The Board of Trustees shall be responsible for appointing a qualified person to serve as the Financial Secretary. The Financial Secretary shall be a non-voting member of the Board of Trustees; this may be a paid position.

The Financial Secretary shall send and receive all membership applications, be responsible for the distribution of membership cards for all approved applications and keep an accurate record of the same.

The Financial Secretary shall be responsible for publishing and distributing any required By-Laws changes or notices to the General Membership.

Shall receive and safely keep all monies and rights belonging to the Organization and the same shall be disbursed under the direction of and to the satisfaction of the Board of Trustees. Paper vouchers shall be taken, recorded and filed for all disbursements.

Shall have the duty of keeping an accurate account of the finances of the Organization and all books shall be open for inspection by the Board of Trustees or a Committee appointed by them, for that purpose. Shall also perform all further duties that are deemed necessary and proper by the Board of Trustees. An out-going Financial Secretary shall deliver all monies and properties of the Organization to the new Financial Secretary.

Shall post a bond in an amount to be set by the Board of Trustees, the expenses of said bond to be paid by the Organization.

The individual holding the office of financial secretary shall be compensated for expenses incurred at a rate to be established by those present at a regular or special meeting of the General membership, upon the recommendation of the Board of Trustees.

e. **Sergeant-At-Arms** - The Sergeant-At-Arms shall be responsible for checking membership cards at those meetings at which it is necessary or requested. Shall also have the responsibility of making certain that all equipment is available for meetings, such as film projectors, flags, tables, chairs, and any other equipment as may be necessary or requested. In addition, shall be charged with maintaining order during Membership and Trustee meetings, and such other duties as are assigned by the President.

Section 3. **Trustees** shall be six (6) members elected at large to serve for two-year terms with three (3) being elected annually.

Section 4. **Board of Trustees** - The Board of Trustees shall consist of all the elected and appointed officers and trustees of the Organization. It shall have the control and management of the funds and property of the Organization. It shall publish, make known and enforce rules governing the privileges and use of the property by members and guests. It shall fill vacancies in all offices and positions by appointment. It shall have the authority to authorize all buying of the organization's needs to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) from the general fund. Shall also be charged with formulating club policies and overseeing all ECCL programs.

Article IV
Nominations

Section 1. At the January Trustee meeting, the Board of Trustees shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of three members in good standing and this committee will present their nominations at the February meeting of the General Membership.

Section 2. At the regular meeting in February, the membership shall nominate the candidates for the following offices; President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Sergeant-At-Arms, and three (3) Trustees. No member shall be nominated for nor hold more than one office. No two members of the same immediate family shall hold elected office within the Board of Trustees at the same time (immediate family to be defined as spouse, parent, offspring or sibling).

Article V
Elections

Section 1. The election of officers and trustees will be held at the regular March meeting by ballot vote. A majority of votes cast shall elect.

"Write-in" candidates shall be permitted.

Absentee ballots shall not be permitted.

It shall be the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to see that ballots are printed prior to the March meeting. The ballots should allow for random listings of the candidates within each electoral position and shall provide areas for "write-in" votes.

Tie votes shall be decided by a toss of a coin under the direction and control of the Nominating Committee.

Article VI
Memberships

Section 1. There shall be six (6) classes of memberships; Life, Senior, Associate, Junior, Honorary and Probationary. Life, Senior, Associate and Probationary members only, shall be eligible to hold office and entitled to vote at meetings of the Organization. All members in good standing are entitled to the use of club facilities under the rules of the organization.

a. **Senior Member** - A Senior member shall be any adult age 19 or older whose initial application has been endorsed by another Life, Senior or Associate Member in good standing, whose application has been approved by the Board of Trustees and whose dues are current.

b. **Associate Member** - An Associate Member shall be any adult, age 19 or older, whose spouse is a current Life or Senior member in good standing and whose application has been endorsed by that member, been approved by the Board of Trustees and whose dues are current and who has been a member for at least one year.

c. **Life Members** - A Life Member shall be any person who has maintained Senior membership for twenty (20) years and has attained the age of 65, or who has maintained Senior membership for thirty (30) consecutive years, whichever comes first.

d. **Junior Member** - A Junior Member shall be any person under 19 years of age whose application has been endorsed by a Life, Senior or Associate Member in good standing, whose application has been approved by the Board of Trustees and whose dues are current and who has been a member for at least one year.

e. **Honorary Member** - Honorary Members shall be those who are on active duty in the Armed Forces, provided that they were members immediately prior to or during their service, and such other persons as the Board of Trustees shall determine. Honorary Members may not vote or hold elected office but may be appointed to non-elected positions with the ECCL.

f. **Probationary Member** - A Senior, Associate or Junior Member, who has been accepted into the membership at the board's discretion, shall be a Probationary Member for the first year with the organization. The Probationary Member shall be subject to dismissal if found to have committed any violation of our safety rules. The Probationary Member shall be ineligible to sponsor new members until the probationary period has been completed.

Section 2. A member shall be in good standing as long as he or she holds a valid, current membership card and is in compliance with the provisions of the Bylaws.

Section 3. The total number of memberships may be limited upon a 2/3 vote of the General membership present at a Regular or Special meeting; notification of the intention to vote on this subject must be given, in writing, no more than three weeks and no less than one week prior to the meeting.

The limit may be changed using the same procedure.

The limit may be changed no more often than three years of the last successful vote to limit.

Section 4. Additional conditions of membership may be enacted by a vote of the General Membership, following discussion of the proposed conditions at three (3) consecutive regular meetings of the General Membership and notification by mail, of when the vote will be taken; a 2/3 vote of the members present shall be required.

Article VII

Dues

Section 1. The Board of Trustees, subject to the approval of the membership, shall set annual dues and application fees for Senior, Associate and Junior Members. These dues shall be for the calendar year January 1 through December 31 and payable by December 31; the Board of Trustees may, on an annual basis, grant a "grace period" for the payment of dues, said grace period to extend no further than the last day of February. The Board of Trustees may, on an annual basis, elect to allow new memberships received in the last quarter of the year to be continued for the following year without additional dues or application.

Section 2. There shall be an application fee for new Senior, Associate, and Junior Members. Former members who have allowed their membership to lapse past March 31st shall also pay this application fee.

Section 3A. A lapse in the membership shall occur if the member has not paid his or her dues by December 31. A lapsed member can renew their membership with a late penalty of:

January 31st - \$25

February 28th - \$50

March 31st - \$75

After March 31st. the membership is terminated with loss of seniority and must renew their membership at full value.

Section 3B. For new Senior members joining in or after July of the year they are entitled to 50% dues reduction. The \$100 application fee will still apply, however the dues would be reduced by 50% of current membership fees. The dues reduction is only reduced by 50% - no additional prorating of dues is allowed if they join after July. Payment of the next years membership dues will be payable by December 31st of the same calendar year.

Section 4. The application fee shall not be required of Honorary Members having been on active duty in the Armed Forces and transferring to Senior Membership status, provided that the transfer is applied for and effective within one year from the date of return to civilian status.

Section 5. Membership shall be free for Life Members.

Section 6. Effective in dues year 2000, members, attaining the age of 65 and furnishing proof thereof, who have been in good standing for the previous ten (10) consecutive years, shall be granted a fifty (50) per cent dues reduction upon request.

Section 7. Membership dues paid by check with insufficient funds available shall be charged a surcharge to be determined by the Board of Trustees.

Section 8. Any member that requires a replacement of lost membership badge or guest badge shall be charged a fee commensurate with the club's cost of replacement, to be determined by the Board of Trustees.

Article VIII Disciplinary Procedures

Section 1. Suspension constitutes the temporary revocation of club privileges, also requiring the surrendering of the member's club badge and exclusion from all club activities until the suspension is served or rescinded.

Expulsion is the removal from the membership rolls and permanent loss of all club privileges.

Section 2. **Officers** - Any officer may be removed from office (for cause) by a two-thirds vote cast by General members present at any regular or special meeting designated for this

purpose. No vote on suspension or removal may be taken unless at least fifteen (15) day's notice is given in writing to the officer with the reasons for removal and of the time and place of the meeting of the Board of Trustees at which the charges shall be considered. The officer shall be given a full hearing and an opportunity to defend or dispute the charges.

Any officer or trustee who is absent for three consecutive regular- officers, Board or Membership meetings without being excused by the President or Vice-President shall be considered automatically removed from office.

Section 3. **Members** - Any member may be suspended or expelled from the organization (for cause) by a two-thirds vote cast by Board members present at any regular or special meeting designated for this purpose. No vote on suspension or expulsion may be taken unless at least fifteen (15) day's notice is given in writing to the member with the reasons for the removal and the time and place of the meeting of the Board of Trustees at which the charges shall be considered. At this meeting the member charged shall be given a full hearing and an opportunity to defend or dispute the charges.

Section 4. **Charges** - any member in good standing may prefer Charges against any officer or member. They shall be in writing, clearly stating the facts or charges and must be accompanied by the affidavits, testimony and/or exhibits, which are to be used in their support. Such charges shall be filed with the Recording Secretary, who shall notify the President within one week of receipt of the notice. The President shall call a meeting of the Board of Trustees to

hear the charges within 30 days of the receipt of notification. The Board of Trustees may, at any time during this interim period (between charges and hearing) choose to require the surrender of the membership badge from the accused member and enforce a temporary expulsion from club property and activities.

The Recording Secretary shall give at least fifteen (15) days notice, in writing, to each member of the Board of Trustees and to the accused and the accuser, notifying them of the time and place of the meeting at which the charges will be taken up. The notification will include a description of the charges and of the supporting affidavits and/or testimony and/or exhibits.

Section 5. Reinstatement - Any member suspended or expelled by the Board of Trustees may appeal to the full membership of the Organization. Such appeal must be made in writing to the Recording Secretary, who shall inform the President. A special meeting of the organization shall be called for the purpose of acting on the appeal. All voting members in good standing shall be notified. At the special meeting, the Recording Secretary shall read the original charges, the supporting affidavits and/or testimony, and will read or display the accompanying exhibits. Shall also read the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees at which the charges were heard and the action taken. A written vote will be taken on the question of reinstatement and a two-thirds vote of the members (in good standing) present shall be required to reverse the action taken by the Board of Trustees.

Article IX
Order of Business

Section 1. Unless otherwise ordered by a majority of the members present, the order of business at all Membership meetings shall be as follows:

1. Roll call of Officers and Trustees
2. Reading of previous minutes
3. Election of officers and trustees, when needed
4. Financial Report
5. Communications
6. Reports of officers and committees
7. Unfinished business
8. New business
9. Good of the Organization
10. New members

Section 2. Roberts Rules of Order will govern the conduct of all Formal meetings, except where these by-laws specifically state otherwise.

Article X
Status

Section 1. The Erie County Conservation League, Inc shall be nonpolitical, and no political advertising will be allowed to be placed on or in League property, except that advertising on issues and legislation relative to the organization's purpose and interests shall be allowed.

Section 2. The Erie County Conservation League, Inc. shall be against any legislation that would oppose or infringe upon the individual right to keep and bear arms.

**Article XI
Grounds Policies**

Section 1. There shall be no hunting on League property, except at the discretion of the Board of Trustees by written permission.

Section 2. No Junior Member shall use any rifle, pistol, trap, skeet or archery range unless accompanied and supervised by a Life, Senior, Associate, Probationary Senior or Probationary Associate Member.

Section 3. No minor shall be permitted on ECCL property unless accompanied by and under the direct supervision of a Life, Senior, Associate, Probationary Senior or Probationary Associate Member.

Section 4. All members and their guests must adhere to the posted ECCL Range Rules

**Article XII
Amendments**

Section 1. The process to Amend to these By-Laws shall take place over three (3) consecutive meetings of the General Membership. The proposed changes shall be published and made available to the membership in attendance at each meeting.

The first reading shall be for the purpose of familiarizing the membership with the proposed changes; the second reading shall provide the opportunity for extended discussion on the proposed changes. The third reading shall be for final discussion and the vote on the final form. 2/3 majority of the votes cast shall constitute passage of the amendments.

Section 2. At least one week and no more than three weeks prior to the second reading, members shall be given written notification of proposed changes to the By-Laws.

Section 3. Policy changes shall become effective immediately. Changes in personnel shall be accomplished by attrition or at the next appropriate election (elected officials shall be allowed to serve their full term).

Section 4. Corrections due to production mistakes or minor corrections to language, which do not alter the original intention, may be made at any time with a 2/3 vote of the Board of Trustees and 2/3 majority of the votes cast by members present at a regular meeting of the General Membership. No previous notification of the membership shall be required.

Section 5. Changes to the By-Laws must be published and distributed within six (6) months of the final vote to amend them.

Not responsible for printing or production errors

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Range Rules

Hours: Change with the time of year

1. Rifle and pistol ranges are for members only. However, members are permitted to be accompanied by one guest.
2. Membership cards must be displayed visibly while on League ranges. Guests must wear the guest badge provided by their host.
3. Paper targets **ONLY**, are permitted. Targets are to be placed on target backers so as not to shoot the wood frames or posts. Tin cans, bottles, plastic jugs, etc. are strictly prohibited. Shooting benches and stools are to remain behind the firing line at all times.
4. Members' vehicles are not permitted on the ranges except with specific permission.
5. No clay bird shooting except on the Trap & Skeet ranges.
6. Shotgun shooting for patterns on paper is permitted.
7. Keep the ranges clean. Put used targets, shell boxes, etc. in the trash containers provided.
8. Ranges are used at your own risk.
9. All fire shall be deliberate and controlled. Any practice which could be considered unsafe may result in immediate suspension of range privileges. **NO full automatic weapons.**
10. Violators of these rules will be subject to revocation of membership.
11. Trespassers will be subject to prosecution.
12. Persons under the influence of alcohol or drugs are prohibited from range use. No consumption of alcohol or drugs of abuse allowed on firing ranges at any time.

**LOCK THE GATE BEHIND YOU
BOTH ENTERING AND LEAVING**

