

## NEW HAMPSHIRE MIDWIVES ASSOCIATION BYLAWS

### ARTICLE I

#### Name and Government

- Section 1: This organization shall be named the NEW HAMPSHIRE MIDWIVES ASSOCIATION.
- Section 2: The official address shall be c/o Sherry Stevens 124 Winona Road, Meredith, NH 03253. Contact number 603-279-4197. Also located on the website <http://www.nhmidwives.org>
- Section 3: This organization shall be governed by these bylaws.
- Section 4: This organization shall be a consortium of midwives, and those who share the same concerns and are willing to work to preserve and promote the tradition and practice of midwifery.

### ARTICLE II

#### Objectives

The objectives of this organization shall be:

- Section 1. To support and promote safe birth alternatives including family centered maternity care, childbirth education, and out-of-hospital birth as well as birth in all settings.
- Section 2. To promote the highest standards of professionalism, practice and care by Association members during prenatal, perinatal, and postpartum periods; within their respective scopes of practice.
- Section 3. To meet the professional needs of New Hampshire Midwives Association members by providing training opportunities, current information, continuing education programs, and a forum for discussion, shared ideas, information and experiences.

Section 4. To promote understanding and acceptance of midwifery by being a source of information to the general public.

Section 5. To support legislation to preserve the option of out- of-hospital birth by protecting the profession and tradition of midwifery.

### ARTICLE III

#### Membership

Section 1. Applicants for membership are welcomed. Dues are determined by the Board and are to be paid by January 31 each year.

Section 2. Categories:

Midwives: Open to all current New Hampshire Certified Midwives, and all other midwives legally practicing out-of-hospital births in New Hampshire and who have paid the prescribed dues. They shall enjoy full privileges, voting rights, and the ability to participate in peer reviews.

Associate Members: Persons who support the standards of practice of this organization and who have paid the prescribed dues. They shall enjoy privileges but shall not be eligible to vote.

Section 3. Privileges of Membership:

Privileges of membership include attendance at all open meetings; inclusion on the mailing list, including on-line group forums; reduction in fees for workshops; and inclusion on the NHMA website and other promotional materials if desired.

Section 4. Revocation of Membership:

Membership will be terminated for the following reasons:

1. Failure to pay dues by January 31st.
2. Failure to comply with other sections of the bylaws where appropriate.

Section 5. Member Action:

Members may act, speak, or write in the name of the Association only when authorized by the Association. All other materials must include a statement to the fact that it is the opinion of the author and not necessarily that of the Association.

ARTICLE IV

Meetings

Section 1. Meetings are held every other month and by special notice. Workshops for continuing education, training opportunities, peer reviews, or discussion may be held throughout the year.

Section 2. Peer reviews are held according to their own protocols.

ARTICLE V

Offices

Section 1. Elected offices of this organization shall include:

President

Vice President

Secretary

## Treasurer

The duties of these offices are prescribed by the bylaws.

- Section 2. Officers shall be elected by ballot at the January meeting according to the voting bylaws under Article IX.
- Section 3. In the event of vacancy of the office of President, before the term has expired, the office shall be filled by the Vice President. All other offices shall be appointed by the remaining officers should they become vacant before the term is expired.
- Section 4. The term of officers shall be two (2) years, limited to two (2) consecutive terms.
- Section 5. The Board of Directors shall include the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The board may also include Committee Chairs, Area Reps, and two public members elected by the general membership to serve and vote. Decisions will be determined by majority vote.

## ARTICLE VI

### Duties and Responsibilities of Officers

- Section 1: The President shall convene the meetings, provide general leadership; supervise the affairs of the Association; preside at meetings; be authorized to sign checks in the absence of the Treasurer; is responsible for the business transacted by the Association; duties may include developing continuing education workshops, seminars, or conferences.
- Section 2: The Vice President shall act in the absence of the President; may serve with the

President on continuing education, workshops, seminars and conferences; act as the membership coordinator by facilitating new and renewing memberships and sending out new membership packets, and perform other duties as necessary.

Section 3: The Secretary records all minutes of each general and board meeting accurately and disburses minutes to appropriate members; sends notice of all meetings with agendas; keeps a current membership list; conducts correspondence for the Association; maintains historical record of events and actions pertaining to NHMA.

Section 4: The Treasurer receives all moneys collected by/or in the name of the Association; keeps an accurate record of all fiscal transactions; keeps an accurate record of all members dues paid; submits a report at each scheduled meeting.

Section 5: Committees:

When necessary, the membership will vote to create a committee in order to accomplish work for the NHMA. The committee will be created when it is estimated that there will be at least 4 hours of work required of each member on the committee in order to complete the work.

## ARTICLE VII

### Amendments

Section 1. Amendments to these bylaws shall be made by written proposal or email, and presented three weeks prior to an NHMA meeting. If discussion yields changes to the proposal

then the proposal shall be reintroduced three weeks prior to the next meeting. When a final proposal is reached, approval of no less than 2/3 of the eligible voting membership is required to pass the amendment. Votes must be in person or by proxy.

## ARTICLE VIII

### Dissolution

Section 1. In the event of the dissolution of this organization, the assets shall be distributed by the officers to a non-profit organization whose goals are comparable to this Association.

## ARTICLE IX

### VOTING

Section 1. Proposals shall be presented to the membership in writing or electronically (such as email) two weeks before the next scheduled NHMA meeting. Debate time shall be allotted at that meeting. Votes shall stay open for 10 days after the meeting to allow for votes by written or electronic ballot from members unable to attend the meeting. Approval of a proposal shall be determined by the majority of votes received. Adopted proposals shall be recorded in the meeting minutes.

## ARTICLE X

### TREASURY

Section 1. Disbursement of funds or reimbursement must be presented to the Treasurer or President in written form with receipts if applicable.

Any request over \$50.00 must have approval  
of officers.

DRAFT I - 9/14/01  
DRAFT II -11/5/01  
DRAFT III-1/4/02  
DRAFT IV- 2/4/02  
DRAFT V- 3/1/02  
DRAFT VI- 3/2/02  
PROPOSED FINAL DRAFT VII  
DRAFT VIII- 9/19/02  
DRAFT IX- 7/6/06  
DRAFT X-10/10/06  
DRAFT XI- 4/26/07  
DRAFT XII-5/9/07  
DRAFT XIII 10/24/07  
Final Draft XIII 11/07/08  
DRAFT XIV 07/07/11