

January 18, 2010

**BY-LAWS OF
BECKER COUNTY SHERIFF POSSE**

ARTICLE 1

Becker County Sheriff Posse

Section 1. The members do hereby voluntarily join themselves together for the purpose of organizing a non-profit, incorporated organization, the name of which shall be the BECKER COUNTY SHERIFF POSSE. (Hereafter throughout these by-laws known as Becker County Sheriff Posse.)

ARTICLE II

OBJECTIVES

Section 1. To help maintain peace, order, and the law in our community; to be public spirited; to promote good fellowship, to cooperate with and assist peace officers with search and rescue operations and to promote the use of horses.

Section 2. To participate in parades, to assist law enforcement as needed or requested and to help support youth activities in Becker County.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERS

Section 1. Qualifications of Active Members. Membership shall be confined to persons 18 years of age or over, with a high school diploma or equivalent, of good moral character, and in good physical condition. Members must have a suitable horse available and transportation for the horse at all times. Uniforms are to be clean and pressed. Uniform clothing shall be buttoned. Horses are to be groomed and equipment is to be clean and in good condition. No public use of alcohol is permitted when identifying Posse apparel.

Section 2. Application. Applications for membership shall be submitted to the Sheriff of Becker County. Upon application the prospective new member will receive a copy of the by-laws. The Sheriff will then conduct the appropriate background checks.

Upon acceptance, with a majority vote, the Support status will begin when an opening occurs. A Support Member will be issued a uniform and allowed to participate in Posse functions. Full active membership will begin with a majority vote after the Support status ends; a probationary period of not less than 12 months. During this time period all Support are recommended to complete First Aid and CPR training as well as submit a current negative Coggins test on their horse. Any new or existing member or Support in need of uniforms or other equipment, should contact the Squad Leader for these items.

Section 3. Support Members. All prospective members awaiting completion of processing active membership are expected to attend all meetings and participate in all trainings and activities. All Support or existing members needing First Aid or CPR or any other training should meet with the Squad Leader to obtain this. For all information on training available through the BCSP, contact the Squad Leader.

Section 4. Active Members. All members must remain in good standing and may not (depending upon circumstances) exceed four (4) absences in a 12-month period. More than four (4) absences in a 12-month period may result in dismissal. All membership dues are payable at the Annual Meeting held in January of each year in the amount set by the Executive Board. Any member of the BCSP delinquent sixty (60) days in dues or assessments shall be suspended from membership in the BCSP and if such dues or assessments are not paid within ninety (90) days from the date when due, such a member may be dropped from membership in the BCSP after review by the Executive Board. Members are required to have First Aid and CPR training during the first year of membership in the BCSP. Members are required to maintain their First Aid and CPR card. Horses used by the BCSP members and Support members must have current negative Coggins test, this in keeping with Minnesota state law requirements.

Section 5. Upon written request, a leave of absence may be granted up to 12 months for members in good standing by action of the Executive Board.

Section 6. All badges, horse and rider uniforms and Posse issued items must be returned upon resignation or termination of membership.

Section 7. Membership shall not exceed 30 mounted members in addition to the Sheriff. Support status shall not exceed a 12-person unit.

Section 8. The BCSP shall be organized into separate squads with a leader in charge of each respective squad. The Squad Leader will be appointed by the Executive Board in conjunction with the Sheriff's approval at the Annual Meeting. There is no term limit on Squad Leaders.

Section 9. The BCSP membership year shall consist of January thru December of each calendar year.

ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS

Section 1. The Executive Board of the BCSP shall be the President, Vice President, Squad Leaders, Secretary, Treasurer, and Sheriff. Officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting.

Section 2. The President shall serve for one year with the Vice President serving for one year and then moving into the position of President.

ARTICLE V

POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the BCSP. In his/her absence, the Vice President shall perform those duties. Unless otherwise provided, the President shall appoint all standing and special committees.

Section 2. The President shall have the power to call special meetings of the BCSP.

Section 3. The President shall execute all contracts, if there may be any required as authorized by the Executive Board.

Section 4. The Vice President performs the duties in the absence of the President.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall keep and maintain an account of all monies received and disbursed.

Section 6. The Secretary shall record all activities of meetings.

Section 7. The Squad Leaders shall issue all uniforms and equipment and appropriate paperwork (Coggins tests, CPR, First Aid, etc.) for horses and members.

Section 8. The Sheriff of Becker County shall serve as a member of the Executive Board and shall have the authority to call meetings, or members, as required in the event of an emergency.

Section 9. The Executive Board shall be responsible for scheduling and coordinating all Posse training activities.

ARTICLE VI

MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings will be held on the third Monday of each month, unless otherwise announced, with location to be set. The January meeting will be declared the Annual Meeting. Any member unable to attend must notify their Squad Leader or an officer prior to the meeting.

Section 2. Squad Leaders shall notify their respective members of any special meeting in a timely manner.

Section 3. Quorum - 51% of the active members of the BCSP shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VII

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. The Executive Board of the BCSP shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Squad Leaders, Past President, and the Sheriff of Becker County.

ARTICLE VIII

POWER AND DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. To prescribe and pass upon the qualifications and requirements for membership and cause to be issued appropriate certificates of membership.

Section 2. To select, appoint, and remove at will agents of the BCSP and to prescribe the duties and delegate such powers to the officers and agents as may be necessary or required in the transaction of the business of the BCSP, not consistent with these by-laws.

Section 3. To recommend and rescind, such equitable, just and uniform rules and regulations as they may deem necessary and desirable for the proper control of the business and affairs of the BCSP and the breach of such rules and regulations and present them to the membership for vote.

ARTICLE IX

VOTING POWERS AND ELIGIBILITY TO OFFICE

Section 1. Every active member shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote. Members may vote by mail as directed in Roberts Rules of Order, as revised.

ARTICLE X

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section 1. Roberts Rules of Order, as revised shall govern the order of business at meetings of the BCSP.

ARTICLE XI

AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

Section 1. These by-laws may be amended by a majority vote of the members present at the Annual Meeting of the BCSP. Amendments shall be drafted and copies mailed to all members at least thirty-five (35) days prior to the Annual Meeting. Any active member may submit a proposed amendment.