Proposed Amendment To CCHS Constitution Outlined

The Chautauqua County Historical Society board of trustees is recommending to the membership that the terms of office of the society's president, vice president, secretary and treasurer be changed to three years from the current one year.

The change will enable the society to pursue longer-term goals under stable leadership while at the same time more likely resulting in a healthy succession of leadership.

The change of Article IV, Section C requires an amendment of the society's constitution to be voted on by the membership at the annual meeting in April. It would read: C. Trustees shall appoint a president, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer from among the Trustees or members, to serve three-year terms.

The constitution with the proposed amendment is:

CONSTITUTION OF THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ARTICLE I. NAME AND STRUCTURE
A. The name of the Society shall be the Chautauqua County Historical Society.
B. The organization is and shall be operated under the guidance and direction of the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE
The goals of the Society shall be:
A. Maintenance of a museum and library of Chautauqua County local history materials for the use by the Society members and the public.
B. Collection and preservation of local and family history materials relating to Chautauqua County and contiguous areas, including library, archival, iconographic and media categories.
C. Collection, preservation and display of museum objects relating to the history of Chautauqua County.
D. Encourage local history research and the dissemination of such research in various media.
E. Assume a leadership role in fostering appreciation and enjoyment of local history through various educational programs, including, but not limited to, meetings, special events, publications, and joint ventures with other local and/or historical agencies.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP
Any person interested in the purposes of the Society is eligible for membership.

ARTICLE IV. BOARD OF TRUSTEES
A. There will be a Board of Trustees consisting of at least seven (7) members and no more than fifteen (15) members.
B. Trustees shall be elected to a four (4) year term by the Society members at annual meetings.
C. Trustees shall appoint a president, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer from among the Trustees or members, to serve three-year terms.

ARTICLE V. DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS
Section 1. The President, or in the case of his/her absence, the Vice-President, shall preside at all meetings of the Society; shall call special meetings at the request of ten (10) Society members; shall present at each annual meeting a written report on the state of the Society; and perform other duties as designated in the bylaws and as directed by the Board of Trustees. The President shall be an ex officio member of all Society committees.

Section 2. The Vice-President, in addition to the duties mentioned in Section 1, shall fulfill other duties as delegated by the President.

Section 3. The Secretary or a designee shall give public notice of all meetings, keep a record of proceedings, and a roll of the names and addresses of all members and their status.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall have charge of all of the funds of the Society. The Treasurer shall present a full written report at the annual meeting, which will be filed with the Secretary's minutes. The Treasurer shall report the state of the treasury at each meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Section 5. Should any vacancy occur among the Officers or Trustees, the Board of Trustees shall have the responsibility to appoint a member of the Society to fill the unexpired term of office.

ARTICLE VI. DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Section 1. The Board of Trustees shall: Have full responsibility to define, implement and oversee the goals of the Society as listed in Article II.

Section 2.
a. Have charge of any securities, stocks, bonds, mortgages, real property or other investments of the Society.
b. Have the power to hold, or to sell, pledge, or otherwise dispose of any such securities or real property, or the income of avails thereof.
c. Have the power to invest the same, to re-invest or vary the form of investments, and to make any contracts or agreements in relation thereto, upon such terms or for such periods of time as will be in the best interest of the Society.
d. Maintain public liability insurance, and such other insurance as is deemed necessary.

Section 3. The title to property shall be held in the name of the Chautauqua County Historical Society.

ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS
Section 1. There shall be an annual meeting of the Society. At this time annual written reports shall be given and filed with the Secretary, necessary business transacted, and Trustees elected.

Section 2. Special meetings of the Society shall be called by the President, upon the written request of ten (10) members of the Society. A public notice shall be given ten (10) days prior to the meeting, stating the purpose for which the meeting is called.

Section 3. The Secretary shall place a notice of all membership meetings in the media.

ARTICLE VIII. BYLAWS
The Society may establish for its future government and regulation, such by-laws as do not conflict with this constitution, and as may be deemed desirable for the management of the Society.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS
A proposition to amend this constitution may be read at any regular meeting of the Society. The amended and/or revised constitution shall be provided to each Society member, in printed form, thirty days prior to the meeting at which a vote will be taken. The amended and/or revised constitution may be adopted by a majority vote of the members present at this meeting, or at a special meeting called by the President for that purpose.