Lending a Helping Paw

Article I- Name and Purpose

Lending a Helping Paw has been established for the purpose of serving animals in need at shelters and rescues. We will volunteer our time to helping these animals through services that we can provide to the rescues and shelters. We will also do fundraising in order to help support the shelters and rescues that care for the animals. Our goal is to improve the lives of abandoned and homeless animals but also to become more caring and selfless people as we offer our service to the animals that rely on us.

Article II- Scope

This organization is subject to the jurisdiction of the Student Government Association of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, as well as to the President of the University and his/her designee.

Article III- Membership

A UMBC student can become a member of this organization by:

- Membership in this organization is open to any UMBC undergraduate student (without restriction of GPA requirement, try-outs, etc.)
- Membership in this organization will not be denied because of race, color, age, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, disabled veteran or veteran status, national origin, or religion.

Article IV- Officers and Elections

a. Officers

The officers of Lending a Helping Paw shall be the President, Vice-president, and Treasurer:Secretary.

The duties of the President shall include:

- chairing a committee
- managing member recruitment/retention
- overseeing all committees
- managing fundraising
- managing communication within the group
- managing public relations
- developing and managing events
- developing and managing projects
- exploring and sharing the history of the organization
- serving as the organization's official representative for communicating with SGA and UMBC staff
The duties of the Vice-president shall include:

- managing public relations
- developing and managing events
- developing and managing projects
- exploring and sharing the history of the organization
- assuming the role of President in the event of the President's absence or incapacity

The duties of the Treasurer shall include:

- managing fundraising
- managing the organization's funds and ensuring compliance with all financial rules and guidelines

The duties of the Secretary shall include:

- managing communication within the group
- recording and archiving information from meetings and activities

b. Elections

All officers shall be elected to a term of one year starting and ending on May 1st.

Elections will be held between April 15th and April 30th. In addition, in the case that a vacancy occurs in any of the elected positions identified in this Article, an election will be held to fill the position.

At least 7 days notice shall be given to all members before the annual election meeting.

Nominations shall be initiated from the floor and elections done by a ballot where the person receiving the majority of votes wins, but if no one receives a majority a runoff occurs between the two candidates with the most votes.

Officers may be removed throughout the year by a 2/3 vote of the other members present at a meeting.

Before the vote, the individual(s) proposing to remove the officer will explain the specific reasons for the proposed action, which must involve misconduct or failure to fulfill officer responsibilities, and the officer will have the opportunity to respond.

Article V- Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by a 2/3 vote of all members present at the meeting. All amendments must be approved in accordance with Student Government Association policy before becoming legally binding.

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