

CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS OF THE
TENNESSEE VOLUNTEER GOURD SOCIETY

Upsilon Chapter of the American Gourd Society - Established October 14, 2000

CONSTITUTION

(Revised March 2009)

Article I - Name

The Society shall be known as the Tennessee Volunteer Gourd Society (TVGS), a Chapter of the American Gourd Society, and shall be a Not-for-Profit Organization.

Article II - Purpose

The purpose of the Society shall be to band together those persons who are interested in the horticulture, history, uses, culture, and art and/or crafting of gourds.

Article III - Membership

Section 1. Individual or family memberships shall be open to all persons who are interested in gourds and are willing to support the activities of the Society and pay the declared membership dues.

- a. Family membership shall include those members of a family living at one address.
- b. Each adult included in a family membership shall be entitled to vote.

Section 2. Membership entitles the members to vote and to hold office.

Section 3. Membership shall be for one year and shall begin upon receipt of the payment of dues.

Section 4. If membership is not renewed by the following newsletter deadline, you will only receive one (1) notice of a missed issue.

Article IV - Officers, Directors and Executive Board

Section 1. The officers shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2. Three (3) Directors shall be elected from the membership.

Section 3. The Officers and Directors shall constitute the Executive Board.

Article V - Meetings

Section 1. Three Membership meetings per year shall be held, one in each the Spring, Summer and Fall. The meetings will be open to all members and interested visitors.

Section 2. The Executive Board shall meet as often as deemed necessary during the year to conduct the business of the Society. **All** Executive Board Members are to attend.

Section 3. The number of voting members at a business meeting shall be considered a quorum.

Article VI -Amendments

The Constitution may be amended by two-thirds majority vote of the members present at the meeting, provided the entire membership has been notified by newsletter or other correspondence the proposed amendment at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

Approved:

Lisa Roberson 4/22/09

Sharon A. Leon 4/22/09

Lisa Roberson, President, TVGS

Sharon Ann Leon, Secretary, TVGS

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Article I – Objectives

Section 1. The objectives of this Society are to promote the culture, art and crafting of Gourds; to provide an information and educational service to its members; and to provide an Annual Show for the promotion of gourds, gourd art and gourd crafting.

Said organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Article II - Membership

Section 1. **Dues:** Membership dues per individual or family shall be assessed. The amount of the dues is to be established by the Executive Board when deemed necessary, subject to the approval of the membership.

Section 2. **Benefits:** All current members will be entitled to hold office, attend, and vote at the business meetings and receive the chapter newsletter.

Article III - Officers' Terms

Section 1. The terms of office shall be two years and at the end of which they will be eligible for re-election if they are willing to serve.

Section 2. The President, Secretary, Treasurer and two (2) Directors shall be elected in even years; Vice-President and one (1) Director shall be elected in odd years.

Section 3. In the event a vacancy should occur in any of the offices, except President, the Executive Board shall appoint a member to fill the unexpired term.

Section 4. The Officers and Directors shall be elected at the fall meeting. New officers shall start their terms upon election.

Section 5. No one may hold more than one elective office at the same time.

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Article IV – Officers’ Duties

- Section 1.** It shall be the duty of the **President** to preside at all meetings of the Executive Board and the general membership. The President shall establish any committee deemed necessary and appoint chairman for such committee with the approval of the Executive Board. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees unless he/she appoints someone to assume the responsibility. The President shall represent the Society to all organizations unless he/she appoints someone to assume this responsibility. The President shall maintain an up-to-date membership roll and notify them when their membership expires and shall forward to the Treasurer any dues collected.
- Section 2.** The **Vice-President** shall assist the President and assume all duties of the President in the absence of the President and shall continue to do so until his or her return, or until the next elected President takes office. The Vice-President will deliver to the Treasurer any dues collected. The Vice-President shall be the Show Chairman (see Article VI – Committees, Section 8.)
- Section 3.** The **Secretary** is the recording officer and Historian of the Society and custodian of its records. The Secretary shall keep a complete record of all official activities of the Society and conduct all necessary correspondence. The Secretary will maintain an up-to-date membership roll. As Historian, the Secretary will keep a scrapbook of pictures, clippings, etc., that tell of the activities and accomplishments of the Society. The Secretary will provide copies of all official business and proceedings of the Society to the Executive Board and to the Editor of the Chapter newsletter.
- Section 4.** The **Treasurer** shall receive all monies belonging to the Society and keep an accurate record of all disbursements. All bills or expenses incurred must be presented to the Treasurer for payment. All Monies must be deposited in a bank located convenient for the Treasurer. A written report of receipts and disbursements shall be presented at the Fall meeting. The Treasurer is to present the President with the copies of all banking statements.
- Section 5.** It shall be the duty of all officers or their heirs to promptly surrender all records, papers and other pertinent information along with any properties belonging to the Society, to their elected or appointed successors in an expedient manner.

Article V - Executive Board

- Section 1.** The Executive Board shall consist of all elected officers and directors, and shall have the authority to conduct the business of the Society.
- Section 2.** The Executive Board shall meet at the call of the President as often as deemed necessary to conduct the business of the Society.
- Section 3.** The Executive Board shall establish a budget and appropriate all Society expenditures.

Article VI - Committees

- Section 1.** **Standing Committees** include but are not limited to: Nominating, Audit, Ways & Means, Publicity, Education and Show.
- Section 2.** All additional Committees shall be approved by the Executive Board.
- Section 3.** The **Nominating Committee** shall consist of three (3) members. This Committee shall prepare a slate of nominees for presentation to the membership and make personal contact with each nominee prior to presenting his or her name.
- Section 4.** The **Audit Committee** shall consist of three (3) members. It shall audit all Treasurer's records every two years, when the Treasurer takes office, and verify all accounts.

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- Section 5.** The **Ways & Means Committee Chairman** shall select all committee members necessary to assist in the performance of his/her duties. The duties of the Ways & Means Committee are to provide plans and activities to supplement the income of the Society.
- Section 6.** The **Publicity Committee Chairman** shall select all committee members necessary to assist in the performance of his /her duties. It shall be the duty of this committee to announce all Society functions and promote the objectives of the organization through the news media, other publications and organizations.
- Section 7.** The **Education Committee Chairman** shall appoint all committee Members necessary to assist in the performance of his/her duties. The duties of this committee shall include the establishment of programs to provide an education and information service.
- Section 8.** The **Show Chairman** shall appoint all the necessary subcommittees to conduct the Annual Show. The **Treasurer** and **Publicity Chairman** shall be members of the Show Committee.

Article VII - Publications

- Section 1.** An informative newsletter or bulletin shall be published for the benefit and edification of the membership.
- Section 2.** The Editor of the Chapter newsletter shall be appointed by the membership and shall be one who is qualified, capable, and willing to assume the responsibility of editing and publishing the newsletter.
- Section 3.** The Editor may solicit the help of as many volunteers as needed for preparing the Chapter newsletter for mailing.
- Section 4.** Bulletins, pamphlets, books, seeds and other gourd articles, dealing with the education, culture, crafting, and promotion of gourds will be offered to the membership at a reasonable price if they become available.
- Section 5.** The Society will communicate by any media, such as an exchange of newsletters, with information of a local nature and to exchange such information with other Chapters and the Editor of "The Gourd".

Article VIII - Amendments

The By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at either of the biannual meetings, provided the entire membership has been notified by newsletter or other correspondence of the proposed amendment at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

1. In case of dissolution of the TVGS, ALL proceeds will be distributed to the American Gourd Society.—Amended October 6, 2007.

Article IX - Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

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STANDING RULES

1. Standing rules may be adopted from time to time to meet the needs of the TVGS.
2. A Standing Rule will continue in force until rescinded.
3. A Standing Rule may be suspended at any one meeting by a majority vote provided it pertains to the business of that meeting.
4. Quorum: The number of voting members at the business meetings shall be considered a quorum
5. Fiscal year shall be January 1 through December 31.
6. Order of business shall be:
 - a. Call to order
 - b. Reading of Minutes
 - c. Approval of minutes
 - d. Reading of Treasurer's Report
 - e. Approval of Treasurer's Report
 - f. Communications
 - g. Committee Reports
 - h. Unfinished Business
 - i. New Business
 - j. Appointments
 - k. Adjournment

Approved:

Lisa Roberson 4/22/09

Sharon A. Leon 4/22/09

Lisa Roberson, President, TVGS

Sharon Ann Leon, Secretary, TVGS