

**THE GARDENERS OF AMERICA
MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA**

GENERIC BYLAWS
For Clubs Affiliated With
The Gardeners of America
Men's Garden Clubs of America

ARTICLE I

NAME:

This club shall be known as _____

ARTICLE 11

OBJECT:

The objectives of The Gardeners of America/Men's Gardens Clubs of America are (1) to educate by teaching, and disseminating horticultural information to members and others, (2) promote and support horticulture and horticultural science and research programs and (3) to engage in programs and activities that will inform the public, encourage better gardening practices and products and promote community beautification.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP:

There shall be three (3) classes of membership as follows:

A. **Active Membership:** Active members shall consist of persons of good character and community standing, interested in gardening who have paid their annual dues as herein provided,

B. **Honorary Membership:** This membership may be extended to a person who is not an active member of the club but who has performed distinguished service for the benefit of the club. The individual may be proposed for this membership by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee, and approved for membership by a majority of club members voting at any regular meeting. Such member will not be required to pay dues, nor eligible to vote or hold office in the club.

C. **Life Membership:** This membership is extended to an individual by the national organization upon payment of the prescribed fee to TGOA/MGCA. A Life Member is thereby exempt from national dues for life and, upon payment of prescribed local club dues shall have all the rights and priviledges of the club.

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS:

Regular meetings shall be held the _____ (day) of each month at _____ (place), _____ (time), but the time and place of meetings may be changed by the Executive Committee.

All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the rules set forth in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

The Annual Meeting of the club will be held _____ (date) in conjunction with the regular monthly meeting for that month, except that the time and place of such meeting may be changed by the Executive Committee with adequate notice to the membership. A quorum shall consist of _____% of the active membership,

ELECTION AND INSTALLATION:

Officers and Directors of the Executive Committee shall be elected at the _____ (specify) meeting to take office at the _____ (specify) meeting.

ARTICLE V**COMMITTEES:**

The following regular committees shall be appointed by the President:

A. The Program Committee: This committee shall have charge of providing speakers and interesting programs for regular club meetings.

B. The Membership Committee: This committee shall be responsible for promoting and building healthy club membership.

C. The Publications Committee: This committee shall supervise the editing and publication of a club newsletter and of all club printed matter.

D. The Nominating Committee: This committee shall consist of at least _____ (specify) members. The President is excluded as are members of _____ (specify if certain members in addition to the President are to be excluded from the committee). This committee shall be confirmed by _____ (specify if confirmation to be required). This committee shall, at a regular meeting prior to the election meeting, present a slate of Officers and Board members for the coming year. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.

ARTICLE VI**AFFILIATION:**

All club members shall maintain affiliation with The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America.

ARTICLE VII**DUES:**

Regular membership dues shall be determined by the club and include the current dues for membership in The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Club, but club dues may be raised or lowered on recommendation of the Executive Committee and majority affirmative vote of active members at any regular monthly meeting.

ARTICLE VIII**OFFICERS:**

Officers of the club shall be regular active members in good standing.

The officers shall consist of a President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President (optional), Secretary, and Treasurer elected for one year or until their successors have been elected and qualified.

The Executive Committee shall consist of these four (five) officers plus the immediate Past President, and six directors, who shall serve for a term of three years, except that initially two shall be elected to serve one year, two to serve two years, and two to serve three years, thus assuring a continuity of board members with experience on the Executive Committee. (Note: A small club would need to adjust their Executive Committee and officers to fit their needs).

The normal day-to-day management of the club shall be vested in the Executive Committee.

Whenever any vacancy shall occur in any official position, a majority of the Executive Committee shall appoint a successor to serve the remainder of that person's term.

The President shall preside at all regular and special meetings and at all Executive Committee meetings. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees with the exception of the Nominating Committee; shall appoint members to serve on committees as provided by these bylaws; and may also appoint members of any special committees deemed as appropriate in the interest of the club. The President shall provide leadership in club activities, and shall be recognized as the official representative of the club in contacts with other clubs, and private and public organizations.

The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the event of the latter's absence or incapacity, and shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the President or by the Executive Committee.

The Treasurer shall accept and deposit club dues and other revenues and income of the club, pay obligations of the club, and keep a record of all receipts and disbursements. Upon request of the Executive Committee, shall submit all books and records of the club for audit or verification, and shall be responsible for reporting memberships to The Gardeners of America/Men’s Garden Clubs of America which the club is affiliated.

The Secretary shall keep minutes of all regular and special meetings and of all Executive Committee meetings; shall take care of correspondence and other duties normally associated with the office of Secretary and handle such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IX

AMENDMENTS:

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the qualified voters present at a regular meeting of the club, provided the proposed amendment and notice of the vote has been sent to each active member at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE X

TERMINATION:

Should this club cease to function or be terminated for any reason any funds of the club that may remain will be paid to another organization operating as a non-profit, non-taxable corporation recognized by the Internal Revenue Service.

ARTICLE XI

The club shall cooperate with The Gardeners of America/Men’s Garden Clubs of America in the programs to promote a full appreciation of gardening, to promote higher ideals among garden devotees, to promote protective laws and higher gardening standards, to promote in the hearts of children the love of growing and enjoying plants, to promote enduring friendships, civic activities and the interest of the public in the individual and private gardens and community plantings and parks.

These Bylaws of _____ club name) read, approved and adopted by unanimous vote at the charter night meeting of the club on

President _____

Secretary _____

Date _____

Generic Bylaws developed April 1997/approved August 1997
Revised 12/06 regarding dues for National Membership, removed specific amount.