

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
OF THE
TEXAS GOURD SOCIETY, INC.**
(KAPPA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETY)

Organized March 1996

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I - Name

The Society shall be known as the Texas Gourd Society, Inc. and shall be a Not-for-Profit organization.

ARTICLE II - Purpose

The purpose of the Texas Gourd Society is to promote interest in and appreciation of gourds, both to our membership and to the general public. We will do this by sharing information through education, meetings, festivals and shows related to the culture, history, uses, crafting and artistry of gourds.

ARTICLE III - Membership

Section 1 Individual or family memberships shall be open to all persons who are interested in the activities of the Society and pay a membership fee.

- a. Family membership shall include those members of a family living at one address.
- b. Each person 18 years or older included in a family membership shall be entitled to vote.

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

Section 3 Membership shall be for one year and shall begin January 1 of each year upon receipt of the payment of dues. Dues paid by new members other than January 1 will be prorated by the month.

ARTICLE IV - Officers, Directors and Executive Board

Section 1 The Officers shall be: PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, MEMBERSHIP, TREASURER, and immediate PAST PRESIDENT.

Section 2 Six Directors shall be elected from the membership, with rotation of Directors to serve three-year terms.

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

Section 4 Officers and Directors must be 18 years or older.

Section 5 Each Gourd Patch may send a representative to Executive Board meetings.

ARTICLE V - Meetings

Section 1 Two membership meetings per year shall be held, one in the 1st half of calendar year and the other in the 2nd half of the year. 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.

Section 3 Twenty-five (25) members shall constitute a quorum at a general membership meeting.

ARTICLE VI - Amendments

The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present at either of the semiannual meetings, provided the entire membership has been notified of the proposed amendment at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I - Objectives

Section 1 The objectives of this Society are to band together people interested in the multifaceted aspects of gourds in human affairs; to provide an informational and educational service to its members; and to provide an annual show for the promotion of gourds.

ARTICLE II - Dues

Section 1 Membership dues per individual or family shall be assessed, the amount of dues to be established by the Executive Board when deemed necessary, subject to the approval of the membership. The annual dues will be \$12 per year.

ARTICLE III - Officers' Terms

Section 1 All officers shall be elected for a one (1) year term, at the end of which they will be eligible for re-election if they are willing to serve.

Section 2 In the event a vacancy should occur in any of the offices, except President, the Executive Board shall appoint a member to serve the unexpired term.

Section 3 The Officers and Directors shall be elected at the Fall meeting. New Officers shall start their term January 1.

Section 4 No one may hold more than one elective office at the same time.

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 a chairman for such committee with the approval of the Executive Board. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. The President shall be a voting member of the American Gourd Society's Executive Board, as prescribed by the AGS bylaws. The President shall represent the Society to all organizations. The President may appoint someone to represent him/her in any of these duties. (Any expenditure over \$100.00, which is not in the budget, must be pre-approved by the President and the Treasurer.

Section 2 The VICE PRESIDENT shall assist the President and assume all duties of the Presidency 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 coordinate the Spring Business meeting, will chair the Nominating Committee and will actively participate in all board and show planning meetings.

Section 3 The SECRETARY of the society will be custodian of its records and shall keep a complete record of all official activities of the Society and conduct all necessary correspondence.

Section 4 The MEMBERSHIP Officer shall maintain an up-to-date membership roll and notify members when their membership expires. MEMBERSHIP will submit a complete list of the membership roll to AGS annually.

Section 5 The TREASURER shall receive all monies belonging to the Society and keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements. All bills and expenses incurred must be presented to the Treasurer for payment. All monies must be deposited in a bank convenient for the Treasurer. A written report of receipts and disbursements shall be presented at each membership meeting. The Treasurer is responsible for verifying pre-approval of disbursements over \$100.00. The Society may require the Treasurer to be bonded and shall pay for such bond. The TREASURER helps create the budget for the coming year.

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 monitor all Society expenditures.

ARTICLE VI - Editor and Historian .

- Section 1 Both the Editor and the Historian shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee.
- Section 2 The Editor shall publish the newsletter.
- Section 3 The Historian shall keep a scrapbook of pictures, clippings, etc. that tell of the activities of the Society.
- Section 4 Both the Editor and the Historian shall be ex-officio members of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VII - Committees

- Section 1 Standing committees may include but are not limited to: *Nomination, Audit, Ways and 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 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/her name.
- Section 4 The *Audit Committee* shall consist of three members. It shall audit all Treasurers records every two years when the Treasurer takes office, and verify all accounts.
- Section 5 The *Ways and Means Chairman* shall select all committee members necessary to assist in the performance of his/her duties. The duties of the Ways and 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 select 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 Committee 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 VIII - Amendments

The Bylaws may be amended by a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present at either of the semiannual meetings, provided the entire membership has been notified of the proposed amendment at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE IX - Dissolution

In the event of dissolution of the Texas Gourd Society, Inc., all debts shall be paid. Any remaining assets of the Society shall be given to the American Gourd Society and no funds shall inure to members as individuals.

STANDING RULES

1. All membership meetings and Executive Board meetings shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order.
2. A Standing Rule will continue in force until rescinded.
3. Standing Rules may be suspended at any one meeting by a majority vote provided that it pertains to the business of that meeting.
4. The Fiscal Year shall be January 1 through December 31.
5. The Order of Business shall be :
 - a) Call to order;
 - b) Reading and approval of the minutes;
 - c) Treasurer's report;
 - d) Communications;
 - e) Committee reports;
 - f) Unfinished business;
 - g) New business;
 - h) Appointments;
 - i) Adjournment.