

CONSTITUTION OF THE CENTRAL GREAT LAKES GARDENERS

A REGION of THE GARDENERS OF AMERICA, INC.

ARTICLE I

NAME

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be "The Central Great Lakes Gardeners," a Region of The Gardeners of America, Inc. The Region organization was incorporated in the State of Ohio on June 11, 2001.

ARTICLE II

OBJECTIVES

Section 1. To make America a garden conscious nation. To be of service and assistance to anyone who is interested in furthering their education in public or private gardening. To assist those who wish to grow in garden knowledge through good fellowship. To give of our horticultural knowledge and skill to those who would have beautiful gardens, parks and highways. To coordinate the activities of all member clubs.

Section 2. The Regional Organization will stimulate regional and local functions by providing a media for inter-relationships between local clubs and other complementary organizations, such as research, professional and other disciplines of Horticulture.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The membership of the organization shall consist of all members in good standing of the affiliated member clubs and all members at large residing in the geographical area of the Region. Member clubs are those accepted by the Board of Directors as specified in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE IV

Section 1. There shall be a President, a 1st Vice-President, a 2nd Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

Section 2. There shall be a Board of Directors with membership as specified in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE V

ELECTIONS

Section 1. The officers of the Central Great Lakes Gardeners shall be elected annually for a one-year term by the members at the annual Summer Conference.

Section 2. The official year and the fiscal year shall be concurrent with the calendar year.

Section 3. Each officer shall begin the official duties as of the date of the installation, which shall be at the Fall Board of Directors/all members meeting following the annual Summer meeting at which he/she was elected. He/she will hold office until the installation of a successor.

Section 4. Installation ceremonies of new officers will take place at the Fall meeting in October or at a Board of Directors meeting to be called by the outgoing President. In no case will the installation be held later than the fifteenth (15th) day of November succeeding the annual Summer meeting at which the incoming officers were elected.

Section 5. National Directors and Alternate Directors shall be elected according to the National Guidelines.

ARTICLE VI

AMENDMENTS

This constitution shall be amended only at the annual Summer meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present and entitled to vote, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been presented in writing and approved by the Board of Directors and provided that a copy of said proposed amendment shall have been sent to each member club at least 45 days prior to said meeting.

BYLAWS OF THE CENTRAL GREAT LAKES GARDENERS

A REGION of THE GARDENERS OF AMERICA, INC.

BYLAW I

ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. To be eligible for membership, a club must be affiliated with, and must abide by the rules and regulations of The Gardeners of America, Inc.

Section 2. To be eligible for membership, a club must demonstrate to the Board of Directors serious purpose in promoting the objectives of the organization and shall have at least ten members before applying. All applications shall be accompanied by the dues for one year.

Section 3. The right to accept, suspend, or exclude a club shall be at the discretion of the Board of Directors, for such cause as would be detrimental to the Central Great Lakes Gardeners, and The Gardeners of America, Inc.

BYLAW II

REVENUES

Section 1. The funds of the organization shall be derived from the payment of dues by each affiliated club and from such other sources as the Board of Directors may authorize.

Section 2. Each affiliated club shall pay to the Central Great Lakes Gardeners for each member annual dues in an amount approved by a majority vote of the members at an amount deemed necessary for the operation of the Region. Annual dues are due on January 1, and shall be paid within sixty (60) days thereafter. Clubs shall pay not less than half (1/2) the annual dues for each NEW member enrolled after July 1st.

Section 3. (Default and Termination of Membership) When an affiliated club of the Central Great Lakes Gardeners is in default in payment of dues for a period of ninety (90) days from January 1st, its membership may be terminated by notice from the Board of Directors to the club. Upon payment of current year's dues, the affiliated club will be reinstated by the Board of Directors.

BYLAW III

FISCAL YEAR

Section 1. The fiscal year shall be from January 1st through December 31st of each calendar year.

BYLAW IV

REPRESENTATION

Section 1. The three annual meetings will be open to the entire membership of the member clubs as defined in the Constitution with full voting rights for all attending.

BYLAW V

ELECTION

Section 1. There shall be a nominating committee of three members appointed by the President. This committee shall present to the convention one or more names for each office.

Section 2. After the report of the nominating committee, opportunity is to be given for nomination of candidates for each office from the floor. Member making such nomination is cautioned to be sure that their nominee can and will serve if elected. After nominations are closed by proper procedure, election shall be conducted by secret ballot, voice vote or show of hands.

BYLAW VI

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The President shall preside at all of the meetings of the organization and the meetings of the Board of Directors. The President shall require an impartial audit of the books at the close of the fiscal year.

Section 2. The 1st Vice-President shall, in the absence of the President, perform the duties of the President. The 1st Vice-President shall be in charge of coordinating the annual Summer conference and (Fall meeting).

Section 3. The 2nd Vice-President shall be in charge of maintenance and growth of membership, club visitations and exchange programs, and the realm of intra and inter public relations of the Region.

Section 4. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the organization and of the Board of Directors, shall have charge of all papers pertaining to the office and shall conduct the correspondence of the organization and such other duties as the Board of Directors may require.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall have charge of all money belonging to the organization and shall deposit the same in the official depository and shall disburse same on the order of the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall sign all checks, the accounts and books shall be open to inspection at all times by the President, the Board of Directors, or authorized auditors. He/she shall make a financial report at each annual meeting, and/or as may be required.

Section 6. The Board of Directors shall meet at the call of the President.

Section 7. The Secretary of each club shall submit to the Regional President a summary report of the previous year's programs, activities, awards, and membership status. The report shall give the names of the officers, regular meeting date, time, place, and planned events for the coming year. This report shall be compiled by the Regional President and a copy of the report published for the Board of Directors.

BYLAW VII

QUORUM

Section 1. A quorum for the annual meeting shall consist of a majority of the Board of Directors and members registered at the annual meetings.

Section 2. A quorum of the Board of Directors meeting shall consist of those members of the Board of Directors present after due notice of a meeting, fifteen days considered due notice.

Section 3. Quorum for a committee meeting shall be three members.

BYLAW VIII

COMMITTEES

Section 1. All committee chairmen shall be appointed by the incoming President.

Section 2. There may be an awards, program, budget and finance, projects, constitutional and coordination, membership and new clubs, publicity and public relations, legislative, judging, seed exchange, industrial beautification committee, or any other committee the President deems necessary.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the Central Great Lakes Gardeners, the Chairmen of all committees, the National Directors from the Central Great Lakes Gardeners, the Presidents of all Region Clubs and the immediate Past President.

BYLAW IX

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed and new Bylaws may be adopted by the Board of Directors by majority vote of the Board of Directors present at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors provided, however, that at least 45 days notice be given, in writing, to members of the Board of Directors of intention to amend, repeal or alter the Bylaws and to adopt new Bylaws at any such meeting.

BYLAW X

PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1. The latest revised issue of "Roberts Rules of Order" shall be the authority in all cases.

REVISED: 1977 Annual Summer Conference, Lima, OH – July 27, 1977
1979 Annual Summer Conference, New Wilmington, PA – June 23, 1979
1988 Annual Summer Conference, Lakeside, OH – May 28, 1988
1997 Revised Draft
1998 Annual Summer Conference, Ft. Wayne, IN – June 26, 1998
2002 Annual Summer Conference, Kent, OH – June 15, 2002
2011 Revised Draft - May 10, 2011
2011 Annual Summer Conference, Berlin, OH – July 29, 2011