

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE ARIZONA GOURD SOCIETY

Gamma Chapter of the American Gourd Society, Organized May 1988

Revised and Amended September 2025

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1 – Name

The Chapter shall be known as the Arizona Gourd Society. The Chapter may be referred to as AZGS.

ARTICLE II – Purpose

The purpose of the AZGS shall be directed to the education and instruction of those persons who are interested in the growing, culture, uses, history, crafting, and creating fine art from gourds.

ARTICLE III – Membership

Membership shall be open to all persons interested in the activities of the Chapter and pay an annual membership fee to the Arizona Gourd Society.

- A. Individual or family memberships shall be open to all persons who are interested in the activities of the Chapter and pay an annual membership fee to the Arizona Gourd Society.
- B. Family membership shall include those members of a family living at one address.
- C. A family membership shall be entitled to one vote per family.
- D. Dues for an individual or family membership shall be the same.
- E. Payment of AZGS dues will entitle the member to newsletter(s), participation in AZGS sponsored events, and eligibility to vote at General meetings.

ARTICLE IV – Officers

The officers shall be President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. These officers shall be elected by ballot at the fall/winter General meeting of the AZGS. A Newsletter Editor,

Membership Chair, Website Chair and a Art Competition Chair may be appointed by the Executive Board as needed.

ARTICLE V – Meetings

A. Definitions:

General meetings include the whole membership. All interested are welcome to attend, but only members who have paid dues may vote. Only one vote per membership.

Executive Board meetings include only the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

Board meetings include the Executive Board and all of the Patch Presidents or Patch Representatives, and others as needed.

B. The General meeting of the AZGS will be held semi-annually either virtually or at a location most convenient to the membership. Executive Board Members will be expected to attend. All other members and interested parties are invited and encouraged to attend.

C. Ten (10) members shall constitute a quorum at a General meeting.

D. The Executive Board shall meet as often as deemed necessary throughout the year to conduct the chapter's business.

ARTICLE VI – Amendments

This Constitution and/or the By-Laws may be amended at the General meetings by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all the members present, provided the announcement of the amendment is published in the Chapter newsletter thirty (30) days before the General meeting. The text of the amendment shall be made available to all Executive Board Members before the thirty (30) day announcement. Copies of the amendments shall be available at the meetings.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I – Objectives

The objectives of the AZGS are to educate, promote, and encourage the culture, agriculture, crafting, and creating fine art from gourds, and to provide information and educational services to its members and the general public.

ARTICLE II – Membership

Elected officers of this Chapter shall be members of the American Gourd Society, Inc. All members are encouraged to join the American Gourd Society as well.

ARTICLE III – Chapter

This chapter shall consist of twenty-five (25) or more members organized to promote interest in the growing, education, culture, uses, history, crafting, and creating fine art from gourds.

A. It will be necessary for this Chapter to submit in January of each year a complete membership roll, including the name and address of each member, to the Secretary of the American Gourd Society and identify the Chapter officers.

B. Relations between this Chapter and the American Gourd Society shall be governed by standard rules for Chapters as determined by the American Gourd Society Executive Board.

C. If there is a discrepancy between the American Gourd Society Constitution and the AZGS Chapter Constitution, the American Gourd Society Constitution shall prevail.

ARTICLE IV – Patches

Any group organized to promote interest in growing, education, culture, uses, history, crafting, and creating fine art from gourds may become a Patch of the AZGS upon applying for membership and adhering to the following conditions:

A. Each Patch shall be identified by a name of their own choosing.

B. Each Patch President or Representative shall maintain membership in the AZGS and serve on the Board of AZGS.

C. Each Patch shall establish their own local dues and conduct local patch activities as an autonomous entity. 3

D. It will be necessary for each Patch to submit in November of each year, a complete membership roll, with the name and address of each member, to the Treasurer of AZGS. This roll shall identify the officers of the Patch and will indicate for each member whether they are also members of the AZGS and/or the AGS.

E. Relations between Patches and the AZGS shall be governed by standard rules for Patches as determined by the Executive Board. Such rules shall apply equally to all Patches.

If there is a discrepancy between the AZGS Constitution and any Patch Constitution, the AZGS Constitution shall prevail.

ARTICLE V – Officers’ Duties

A. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings. The President shall be the official representative of the AZGS at all meetings or functions that involve or pertain to the membership of the AZGS. The President will also set up committees when necessary and appropriate.

B. The immediate Past President may serve an additional year as the Ex officio Past President, attending Board meetings and providing guidance and consultation while not having the power to vote.

C. 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/her return, or until the next election. The Vice President will be responsible for the coordination of the General meetings, chairing the Nominating Committee, acting as Chapter Parliamentarian, and other duties as assigned.

D. The Treasurer will be responsible for collecting member dues, managing financial transactions, and maintaining the state chapter bank account. The Treasurer shall provide budget updates to the Executive Board. The Treasurer shall work with the Membership Chairperson (if appointed) to help maintain the membership files and submit the membership roll to the American Gourd Society as specified in ARTICLE III-A.

E. A Membership chairperson may be appointed to help maintain the membership files, report the Chapter’s census to the American Gourd Society as specified in ARTICLE III-A, and assist the Treasurer regarding membership and dues.

F. The Secretary is the recording officer of the Chapter and the custodian of its records. The Secretary shall keep a complete record of all official activities of the Chapter and conduct all necessary correspondence. The Secretary shall keep and update the Standing Rules as necessary.

G. The Newsletter Editor shall be responsible for creating and publishing a statewide newsletter. All dues-paying members shall receive a newsletter. It is the Editor’s discretion to send complimentary newsletters (e.g., to potential members, vendors, other state chapters).

H. The Art Competition Chair shall be responsible for overseeing all committees and business pertaining to a State Trade show, State-sponsored competitions, and education programs.

I. It is the duty of all officers and committee chairs or their heirs to promptly surrender all records, papers, and other pertinent information along with any properties belonging to the AZGS, to their elected or appointed successors in an expedient manner.

J. An informative newsletter or bulletin shall be published for time-sensitive updates as needed.

K. A Website/technology Chair may be appointed to manage the website and online communications. This chair can create its own subcommittee to conduct the business of its role.

L. The Editor of the Chapter newsletter is responsible for editing and publishing the newsletter

ARTICLE VI – Officers’ Terms

Section 1:

A. All officers shall be elected for a two (2) year term, at the end of which they will be eligible for re-election. The election for the offices of President and Secretary will be held in ODD numbered years’ and the election for the offices of Vice-President and Treasurer shall be in EVEN numbered years.

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

C. The Officers shall be elected at the in-person or virtual Winter General Membership Meeting. New Officers shall start their terms beginning March 1st or the month following the judging of the Art Competition show.

D. The presidential nominee will accept the nomination and election with the understanding that they may serve an additional year as ex officio past president following completion of the presidential term.

Section 2: Elections

A. The AZGS will notify the membership which officers are up for election, when nominations are open, and where to send nominations.

B. Nominations should take place in November.

C. The membership shall be notified which candidates are running for which office, when voting will be opened and closed, and how to cast their ballots.

D. Voting should take place in January.

ARTICLE VII – Executive Board and AZGS Board

A. The Executive Board shall consist of all elected Officers and shall meet at the call of any officer to conduct the business of the Chapter.

B. The AZGS Board will include the Executive Board, Patch presidents or their representative, and appointed committee chairs, and shall have the authority to conduct the business of the chapter. All Board members are eligible to vote at Board meetings.

ARTICLE VIII – Amendments

Refer to the Constitution.

ARTICLE IX – Dissolution Clause

In the event of the dissolution of the Arizona Gourd Society, all debts shall be paid. Any remaining assets of the Arizona Gourd Society shall be given to the American Gourd Society, and no funds shall be returned to members as individuals or organizations.

STANDING RULES OF THE ARIZONA GOURD SOCIETY

Gamma Chapter of the American Gourd Society, Organized May 1988

Standing Rules may be adopted from time to time to meet the needs of the AZGS.

1. A Standing Rule will continue in force until rescinded.
2. Standing Rules may be suspended at any meeting by a majority vote, provided it pertains to the business of that meeting.
3. An agenda shall be provided at all of the AZGS meetings.
4. All meetings shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order.

12 SEP 25, Standing Rule #1: A "Play Date" is defined as a single-day event sponsored and organized by a gourd patch, conducted with instructor(s) and materials provided, to allow sharing of techniques and to provide camaraderie among members of the Arizona

Gourd Society at no expense to attendees beyond their cost to get there. Beverages and a meal may be provided, or attendees may bring a sack lunch. AzGS will reimburse up to \$500, with receipts required. Reimbursable expenses may cover refreshments, venue rental, materials to include gourds and instructor compensation. Participants may be asked to bring tools or supplementary materials.