

BY-LAWS OF THE FORT WORTH IRIS SOCIETY
AN AFFILIATE OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

REVISED DATE: MARCH 3, 2005

ARTICLE I. NAME AND AFFILIATION

- Section 1 Name: This non-profit organization shall be known as the Fort Worth Iris Society of the American Iris Society and may be referred to as the Society in the remainder of these Bylaws.
- Section 2 Affiliation: The Fort Worth Iris Society is an affiliate of the American Iris Society (AIS).

ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVES

- Section 1 The purposes of the Fort Worth Iris Society shall be to develop the science of horticulture and activities related to the study, propagation, and culture of irises; to stimulate and foster interest in botanical and horticultural pursuits; to cooperate with other organizations, public and private, in the scientific and horticultural education of all those interested in learning about irises, by any means consistent with these Bylaws. These shall include, but are not limited to:
- (a) To support scientific research, including the culture and improvement of irises, and to encourage garden visiting by the general public,
 - (b) To collect and disseminate information on the history, classification, hybridization, climatic range, and culture of irises;
 - (c) To promote shows and exhibitions for the purpose of educating the general public and fellow irisarians,
 - (d) To educate the public through public display gardens, published standards for judging, and local, area, regional and national meetings open to the public; and
 - (e) To encourage membership in, and cooperation with, the AIS and its regional and local societies.
- Section 2 Organization and Operation. The Fort Worth Iris Society shall be organized and operated exclusively for educational and scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Section 3 Prohibited Activities.
- (a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Bylaws, The Fort Worth Iris Society 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 (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.
 - (b) No substantial part of the activities of the Fort Worth Iris Society shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Fort Worth Iris Society shall not participate or intervene in any political campaign, including publication or distribution of statements on behalf of any candidate for public office..

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1. Any person who is in sympathy with the purposes of the Society may apply for membership. Members shall be entitled to all privileges of the Society after their third month of membership. These privileges include the right to participate in all activities except the guest iris program (rules of which are set out separately), to vote in any Society election, to serve by appointment on any committee, and to hold office subject to Article VII, Section 2.
- Section 2. The following categories of membership shall be available:
- A. Adult Member: Anyone having attained the age of nineteen (19) years.
 - B. Youth Member: Anyone not having attained their nineteenth (19) birthday before the first day of January. Dues shall be one-half (1/2) that of an Adult member.
 - C. Family Membership: An Adult member and spouse and / or youth offspring.
 - D. Life Member: Anyone paying the prescribed dues.
 - E. Honorary Member: Someone the Society deems worthy of special membership.
- Section 3. Youth Members and Youth Members from Family Membership shall have all privileges of membership.
- Section 4. Increment of income: No part of the net earnings of the Fort Worth Iris Society shall be distributed to its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization is authorized to pay reasonable compensation for goods and/or services rendered in furtherance of the objectives of the Fort Worth Iris Society.

ARTICLE IV. DUES

- Section 1. The dues of the Society shall be set by the Society and due the first of the calendar year. Dues will be delinquent after the March meeting.
- Section 2. New members paying dues (joining the Society) at or after the October meeting shall be shown as having paid membership for the following year; however, membership privileges shall start (within limits shown elsewhere in this document) as of the day of payment of dues.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

- Section 1. The regular meetings of the members shall be held on the first Thursday of each month (unless otherwise designated) at the time and place considered to be appropriate by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Section 1. The management of the affairs, property, and business, in such cases where expediency is demanded, shall be vested in a Board of Directors, consisting of the following seven (7) officers:
- A. President
 - B. First Vice President
 - C. Second Vice President
 - D. Third Vice President
 - E. Secretary
 - F. Treasurer
 - G. Immediate Past President

- Section 2 Special Board meetings may be called by the President or any three (3) members of the Board and shall be open to any members of the Society.
- Section 3 All Past Presidents shall be ex-officio members of the Board of Directors. They shall be entitled to discuss and advise on matters concerning the Board; however, they shall have no official vote on the board.
- Section 4 Review and modify the Standing Rules.

ARTICLE VII. OFFICERS

- Section 1 The officers of the Society shall be a President, three (3) Vice Presidents, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.
- Section 2 Any candidate for office in the Society shall have been a member of the Society for one year, unless the requirement is waived by a majority of the membership present at the election meeting.
- Section 3 Any candidate for office in the Society must be a member of the American Iris Society upon assumption to the office.

ARTICLE VIII. DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT

- Section 1 The President shall be chief Executive Officer of the Society and Chairperson of the Board of Directors.
- Section 2 The President shall preside at all meetings of the membership and at meetings of the Board of Directors unless unavailable and has designated a Vice President to preside.
- Section 3 The President shall be ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.
- Section 4 The President shall see that all orders and resolutions of the Society are carried into effect.
- Section 5 The President shall be the Alternate signature on all bank accounts of the Society
- Section 6 The President shall be responsible for ensuring that the members are notified of meetings of the Society and shall notify Board members of meetings of the Board of Directors.
- Section 7 Other duties may be described in the Standing Rules.

ARTICLE IX. DUTIES OF VICE PRESIDENTS

- Section 1 The First Vice President, in the absence of the President, shall perform the duties prescribed for the President and described in Article VIII and further described in the Standing Rules.
- Section 2 The First Vice President shall be Chairperson of the Program Committee, as further described in the Standing Rules.
- Section 3 The Second Vice President shall be Chairperson of the Membership Committee, whose purpose it will be to encourage persons to become members of the Society, as further described in the Standing Rules.
- Section 4 The Third Vice President shall be Chairperson of the Publicity Committee, as further described in the Standing Rules.

Section 5 Other duties of the Vice Presidents are described in the Standing Rules.

ARTICLE X. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY

Section 1 The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Board of Directors and of the Membership and shall record the minutes of such meetings.

Section 2 The Secretary is responsible for keeping the official records of minutes and changes to the Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 3 The Secretary shall read the minutes to the membership at the next regular meeting of the Society or the minutes may be published in the newsletter.

Section 4 The President may appoint a member to take minutes of any meeting which the Secretary is unable to attend.

Section 5 At the close of the Secretary's term of office, a copy of all minutes shall be passed to the new Board of Directors to be kept on file.

Section 6 If the Society approves a change to the Constitution and By Laws the Secretary is responsible for making a copy of the change and placing it with the Master Constitution which is held by the President.

Section 7 Other duties of the Secretary are described in the Standing Rules.

ARTICLE XI. DUTIES OF THE TREASURER

Section 1 The Treasurer shall have custody of the Society's funds and shall keep a full and accurate account of receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the Society and shall deposit all monies to the credit of the Fort Worth Iris Society in the depository designated by the Board of Directors.

Section 2 A summary report shall be given to the membership at each regular meeting of the Membership or printed in the monthly newsletter.

Section 3 The Treasurer shall disburse funds of the Society as required.

Section 4 The Treasurer shall submit the financial records of the Society for audit by a committee of three members appointed by the incoming President after the June meeting. The Audit Committee shall meet and report at or before the August membership meeting.

Section 5 Other duties of the Treasurer are described in the Standing Rules.

ARTICLE XII. IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Section 1 The Immediate Past President serves as a voting member of the Board of Directors and shall also serve as Parliamentarian.

Section 2 Other duties are described in the Standing Rules.

ARTICLE XIII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1 The nomination of officers shall be made as follows:

A. By a Nominating Committee, or

- B. From the Floor, or
- C. By a combination of the above two methods.

- Section 2 Prior consent from each nominee shall be obtained before such nominee is nominated for office.
- Section 3 The Nominating Committee shall be composed of three (3) members appointed by the President and two (2) elected by the membership at the April membership meeting of the Society
- Section 4 The annual election of officers shall be held at the June meeting. New officers will assume their duties at the July Meeting.
- Section 5 Each member present who has been a member for at least three months shall be entitled to vote. The method of voting on elections shall be designated by the presiding officer.
- Section 6 The officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the eligible members present at the June meeting and shall serve for a term of one year beginning in July. Any vacancy in the Board shall be filled by a majority vote of eligible members present at the next regular or special meeting.

ARTICLE XIV. COMMITTEES

- Section 1 The President may appoint the Chairperson for the following standing committees:
 - A. Show
 - B. Guest Iris
 - D. Rhizome Sale
 - E. Sunshine
 - F. Telephone
 - G. Properties
 - H. Yearbook
 - I. Hospitality
 - J. By-Laws
 - K. Newsletter
 - L. Four Seasons Garden
 - M. Web site
 - N. Library
 - O. Fund Raising

Section 2 The President with the approval of the Board of Directors shall appoint Special Committees and/or Chairpersons of such committees.

Section 3 The duties of the standing and/or special committees shall be defined by the President and Board of Directors and described in the Standing Rules.

ARTICLE XV. GENERAL

Section 1 The Constitution and Bylaws of this Society may be amended by an affirmative vote of two thirds (2/3) of the members in good standing present at any regular meeting, provided that written notice is sent to all members prior to the meeting.

Section 2 The latest edition of "Roberts Rules of Order, Revised" shall be used to cover questions not provided for in these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XVI. DISSOLUTION

Section 1 In the event of dissolution of the Fort Worth Iris Society, after paying or adequately providing for its debts and obligations, the President and Treasurer shall distribute all assets of the Fort Worth Iris Society to the American Iris Society or to such organizations as are qualified as tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding provisions of a future Internal Revenue Law.

Section 2 Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a court having jurisdiction for such purposes in the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located for such purpose or to such organization or organizations as said court shall determine, which are organized exclusively for such purpose.