

BY-LAWS - TORONTO AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

Submitted September 20, 1960
Adopted September 20, 1960
Amended May 15, 1962
Amended June 17, 1969
Amended May 15, 1979
Amended March 16, 1982
Amended February 17, 2003
Amended May 20, 2003
Amended Oct 18, 2007
Amended March 18, 2008
Amended November 1, 2014

Section 1

This Society shall be known as the TORONTO AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY.

The Society shall be and exist as a non-profit organization.

The objects of the Society shall be to afford a convenient and beneficial association of persons interested in the African violet and to stimulate widespread interest in the propagation and culture of African violets.

All persons who are sincerely interested in the growing of African violets shall be eligible to membership in the Society. The Officers and Directors may revoke the membership of any member of the Society for just cause.

Types of Membership: A member shall be deemed at all times as one whose membership and privileges have neither lapsed nor been revoked.

Individual: Shall be any one (1) person.

Family: Shall be any two (2) related persons living in the same residence.

Life: Shall be 15 times the yearly rate.

Commercial: Shall be any persons or firms who advertise consistently, manufacture, sell or offer for sale any of the following:

One thousand (1000) or more plants and/or parts of plants annually and/or growing mediums and/or soil enrichers of any description: all powder, compounds, solutions or derivatives used for the prevention or control of diseases or insects and/or merchandise or equipment applicable in any way to the culture of African violets and gesneriads.

(As defined in the 1998 African Violet Society of Canada By-laws.)

Honorary: One year membership accompanied by appropriate membership card and certificate will be awarded by the Executive Board for one (1) year for outstanding service to the Society

Honorary Life Membership: Accompanied by appropriate membership card and certificate may be conferred by the Executive Board for outstanding service to the Society.

Life Membership: Shall be one (1) person (as opposed to a club or affiliate) who upon paying the Life Membership fee shall be exempt from further membership dues. Membership dues in this Society are payable in advance, and shall cover the period September 1st to August 31st. Each member, commercial or individual of the Society whose dues are paid in full for the current year shall be entitled to one vote on all matters brought before the Society. The dues are to be decided

by a majority vote of the members and reviewed at the discretion of the membership from time to time.

Section 2

The elected Officers of the Society are President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The term of elected Officers is two years. No office is to be held for more than three consecutive terms, however if there is no new nominations for an officer's position after the three consecutive terms, then the current officer can be re-nominated with the agreement of the membership.

There shall also be a Board of Directors which shall consist of no less than four and no more than seven members of the Society at large, to be selected by the Officers. Directors shall serve for a term of one year. The immediate past President should be encouraged to serve as a Director.

The elected Officers of this Society shall also serve as members of the Board of Directors, also known as the Executive.

Nominations for elected Officers of the Society shall be held at the first (September) meeting of the club year. Elections shall be held at the second (October) meeting of the club year. The new Officers shall take over at the conclusion of the vote and may select the Directors at this time. Vacancy of any elected Officer's or Director's position shall be filled by appointment, by the Board of Directors and approved by the Membership.

Section 3

President - The President shall have general superintendence of the affairs of the Society, and The Board of Directors. The President shall keep informed of all work of the Society and shall make reports to the Membership and Board of Directors as may be deemed necessary. The President will preside at all meetings of the Membership, and of the Board of Directors in conjunction with other elected Officials and the Directors. The President shall appoint the Chairmen and members of, and prescribe and assign the duties of: Standing, Show, Program and other Committees. The President shall have cheque signing authority.

Vice-President - The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of or, in conjunction with the latter or whenever the President may be unable or unwilling to perform all the duties of this office. The Vice-President shall have cheque signing authority.

Secretary - The Secretary will be responsible for keeping accurate minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors and monthly meetings of the Membership, and also such correspondence of the Society as the Board of Directors and / or the President may authorize. All minutes are to be read or published and approved at General and Executive meetings. The Secretary shall have cheque signing authority.

Treasurer - The Treasurer will be responsible for the receipt and deposit of all monies of the Society. Large expenses shall be paid by cheque only. All cheques shall require two signatures. All cheques shall be signed by any two of the four signing officers, who are the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Expenses will be paid when a receipt or invoice is provided to the Treasurer including pre-approved purchases. In the absence of an invoice or receipt, payment must be authorized by the Board of Directors, or more than half of the general Membership. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all monetary assets of the Society

and of all related transactions. The Treasurer will be required to periodically prepare a monetary float to be used at Society sponsored Shows and Sales. The Treasurer may assign Society Members to be responsible for the care and return of the float. The Treasurer will provide a financial statement at year end. The Treasurer shall have cheque signing authority.

In the event that there are fewer than 3 officers to sign the cheques, the treasurer may appoint one or two of the directors as needed to bring the number of signees to at least three.

Section 4

The Board of Directors shall meet at the request and discretion of the President to discuss business on behalf of the Society as deemed necessary. The Board of Directors shall meet when a role is required as in the election of Officers or Directors, and other business matters as the need arises. Business items are to be presented to the membership of the Society through publication in the bulletin or newsletter. The Board of Directors must meet at least once in each calendar year.

Section 5

Committees as may be required shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors. Ongoing Committees may include Sunshine, Membership, Library, Hospitality, Program, Show, Sale and By-Laws. Other Committees may be added as deemed necessary.

Section 6

These Bylaws may be amended, modified or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members in attendance at a properly constituted General Meeting of the Society, provided notice of the proposed amendments, modification or repeal was presented at the preceding meeting and contained in the notice of a meeting.

Section 7

In the event that there is a disagreement as to the proper procedure, the rules contained in the latest edition of "Robert's Rules of Order", newly revised, will govern the Society in all cases where applicable and not in conflict with the By-laws of the Society.