

Ohio State African Violet Society Constitution & Bylaws

Amended January 31, 2014

Constitution

Article I – Name

Section 1 – The name of this organization shall be **The Ohio State African Violet Society**.

Article II – Object

Section 1 – The object of this Society is to promote, encourage and foster the development and improvement of the Saintpaulia and public interest therein, by all suitable and appropriate means; to promote a spirit of cooperation among members; and to furnish and recommend a list of qualified judges.

Section 2 – This Society exists as a non-profit organization.

Article III – Membership

Section 1 – Membership consists of five classes: Individual, Honorary Life, Family (Husband and Wife), Affiliated Club, and Commercial.

Article IV – Officers

Section 1 – The officers of this Society are President, Vice President, Secretary, Membership Secretary and Treasurer. Four Directors and Immediate Past President, together with the Parliamentarian (appointed by the President) and appointed chairman of the following committees – Awards, Editor, Advertising, Convention and Show – constitute the Executive Board.

Section 2 – The Officers and Directors are to be elected at each annual meeting and continue in office until their successors are elected and qualified.

Section 3 – Should any vacancy occur in the elective offices, the President with the approval of the Executive Board, has the power to fill the vacancy.

Section 4 – The term of office is one year. No member shall hold the same office for more than two consecutive years with the exception of Treasurer and Membership Secretary who may be elected annually to serve for four terms.

Article V – Annual Meeting

Section 1 – The annual meeting shall be held in the fall. In case this is prevented by unusual circumstances, it may be held as soon thereafter as possible.

Section 2 – At the annual meeting, the Officers and Directors shall be elected after the Nominating Committee has reported. A plurality vote is required. In the event that there is but one candidate for each office, the Secretary may be instructed to cast the unanimous vote of those present for the slate of officers. Should there be more than one candidate for any office, the vote shall be by ballot. Officers shall take office at the close of the last session of the meeting at which they were elected.

Article VI – Amendment

Section 1 – This Constitution may be amended at any meeting by a two-thirds vote of those voting, provided the notice of the proposed amendment is contained in the notice of the meeting. All proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing.

Bylaws

Article I – Membership

Section 1 – Any person or group interested in the growing of African violets is eligible for membership. Membership shall be by written application, accompanied by the payment of one year's dues.

Section 2 – Membership shall be divided into the following classes: Individual, Family (Husband and Wife), Commercial, Affiliated Club, and Honorary Life.

1 Individual Membership – Any person interested in growing African violets.

2 Family Membership – A husband and wife, both of whom shall have voice and vote, but will receive only one copy of *The Violet Connection*.

3 Commercial Membership – Any AVSA Commercial member. They will be permitted to purchase a table to sell same at the annual convention without donating 10% of their sales to the OSASV treasury.

4 Affiliated Club Membership – A group of individuals interested in growing African violets and who have formed an association.

5 Honorary Life Membership – shall be given to a member of the Society for outstanding services. They shall have all privileges of membership but shall be exempt from future payment of dues.

Section 3 – The yearly dues shall be individual \$10.00, Family \$15.00, Commercial \$20.00, Affiliated Club \$10.00, and Honorary Life (no dues). The dues for Canadian members will be an additional \$5.00 and for other countries an additional \$10.00 above the yearly dues rate IF the members do NOT receive their magazine via email because of increased postage rates.

Article II – Meetings

Section 1 – The Annual meeting of the Society shall be in the fall at such time and place as is decided upon by the Executive Board.

Section 2 – The business and fiscal year of the Society shall be twelve months from the fall meeting.

Section 3 – Special meetings of the Society may be called by the Executive Board or upon request, in writing, of thirteen members.

Section 4 – 50% of the paid up, registered convention attendees constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 5 – The Executive Board may meet at any time on call of the President or one-third of the members of the Executive Board. Those calling the meeting at least 30 days in advance of the date shall send notice of such meetings. The regular meeting of the Executive Board shall be just prior to the annual meeting of the Society.

Article III – *The Violet Connection*

Section 1 – *The Violet Connection* shall be the official publication of the Society. It shall be published in December, March, June and September and mailed to all paid up members of the Society. The President with the approval of the Executive Board appoints the Editor. A membership roster shall be printed each year in the March issue of *The Violet Connection*.

Article IV – Officers

Section 1 – The President's duties are to preside at all meetings of the Society and Executive Board, to perform such duties as are incidental to the office, to appoint all standing and special committees and to fill vacancies (subject to approval by the Executive Board).

Section 2 – The Vice President's duties are to aid the President and in case of the absence or disability of the President assume and perform the duties of the President.

Section 3 – The Secretary's duties are to keep a record of the proceedings of all meetings, to conduct the correspondence of the Society, and to notify committees who are appointed at the annual meeting of their appointment and duties.

Section 4 – The Membership Secretary's duties are to keep an accurate record of the membership of the Society. All dues are sent to her and upon receipt she issues a dues card.

Section 5 – The Treasurer holds the funds of the Society deposited and pays them out, not in excess of the funds on hand. The Treasurer makes a report annually, submits her books for audit at the annual meeting and at any other time when requested to do so by the Executive Board. The Treasurer furnishes to the President a certification signature, so that, in the event of the inability of the Treasurer to perform the treasurer's duties, said repository will honor all deposits and withdrawals made under the President's signature until the Treasurer is again able to perform her duties, or is replaced. The Treasurer obtains the Past President's pin, as necessary, and the vendor's permit for the annual convention/sale.

Section 6 – The Immediate past President installs the incoming President. If unavailable, the incoming President chooses her installing Officer.

Section 7 – The Directors serve as liaison to the membership of the Society and helps to promote interest in the Society. They keep the Executive Board informed on all matters relating to the best interests of the Society and convey to the members all information relating to its administration.

Section 8 – The Society shall not be liable for any private debt incurred by Officers and Directors.

Article V – Committees

Section 1 – The President, with the approval of the Executive Board, appoints and announces all committees. If the committees are appointed after the annual meeting, notice of such appointments is to be included in the next issue of *The Violet Connection*. Standing committees appointed by the President are Audit, Awards, Convention Chairman, Show Chairman, Editor, Historian, Nominating and Parliamentarian. Special committees may be appointed as the need arises.

Section 2 – The audit committee of two members audit the books of the Treasurer at the close of each fiscal year and at any other time deemed necessary by the Executive Board.

Section 3 – The Awards Chairman is responsible for the purchase and upkeep of the ribbon supply for both the regular classes and the Ohio State class. A list of awards for the annual show is submitted to the Editor for publication in the June issue of *The Violet Connection*. The Awards Chairman keeps an accurate record of ribbons, used and unused. All unused ribbons are to be in the possession of the new Awards Chairman within 15 days after the close of a show. No date or city is to be printed on the ribbons. Cost of the ribbons is to be paid by the Society. The Awards Chairman deposits the Special Awards fund in a bank of her choice, with a co-signer. The Awards Chairman sends a list of show winners to AVSA and *The Violet Connection* as soon as possible after the show.

Section 4 – The Convention Chairman appoints the following committee chairmen: Program, Commercial, Ways and Means and Member Plant Sales Chairman. The Convention Chairman appoints a committee to be in charge of the informal Friday night party. Upon her appointment, the Convention Chairman receives an advance payment of \$50.00 for initial convention expenses, this amount to be returned to the Society out of convention receipts. After all business is settled the Convention Chairman prepares a financial statement in detail and submits copies to the President, the Treasurer and the following years' Convention Chairman. The Convention Chairman serves as Registrar for the convention.

Section 5 – The Show Chairman appoints the following committee Chairmen: Schedule, Staging, Entries, Classification, Education, Judges, Placement Aids, Hospitality, and Publicity.

Section 6 – The Editor has the responsibility for editing *The Violet Connection*. The Editor assembles a competent staff to issue an educational and informative publication. The staff shall include an Associate Editor, Contributing Editors and Advertising Editor. Annually the Editor receives an advance payment of \$300.00 to cover postage and incidental expenses. The Editor also prepares and issues all publications which the Board may authorize and prints the Constitution and By-laws every other year. **Section 7** – The Historian keeps a scrapbook containing printed publicity and pictures of activities of the Society and its Affiliated members and clubs.

Section 8 – The Nominating Committee consists of three members, one shall be the immediate Past President who shall serve as Chairman. They serve for one year. They submit their report for publication in the September issue of *The Violet Connection* and present it at the annual business meeting where all elections are held.

Article VI – Expenditures

Section 1 - The Treasurer without specific approval of the Executive Board shall pay section 3 – fixed expenditures of the Society.

Section 2 – All other expenses must be presented to the Executive Board for payment at its annual meeting.

Section 3 – Fixed expenses are cost of printing *The Violet Connection*, cost of ribbons, advance to the Membership Secretary for postage and incidentals \$60.00, advance to the Treasurer \$10.00, and advance to the Convention Chairman \$50.00, the cost of using the convention facility. The Executive Board shall have the authority to change these amounts should conditions warrant.

Article VII – Ways and Means

Section 1 – No member shall be allowed to sell his or her own plants in the sales room.

Article VIII – Amendments

Section 1 – These Bylaws may be amended at any meeting by a two-thirds vote of those voting, provided the notice of the proposed amendment is contained in the notice of the meeting. All proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing.

Article IX – Parliamentary Procedure

Section 1 – *Robert's Rules of Order, Revised* shall govern the proceedings of the Society so far as it shall apply and if not in conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws.