

Constitution of the Pittsburgh Area Planted Aquarium Society

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be:

Pittsburgh Area Planted Aquarium Society

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of this Society shall be to provide a forum of fellowship for the sharing of our common interest in aquatic gardening, promote the cultivation of aquatic plants for the pleasure of their scientific study, to improve understanding of growing techniques, to maintain a diversity of aquatic plants available to the hobby, to promote aquatic plants as elements of design in the art of aquascaping, provide support and guidance to hobbyists of all skill levels through the free exchange of information, experience and ideas, to represent aquatic gardening in the Pittsburgh community and to encourage public interest and involvement in the hobby.

OUR PURPOSE WILL BE FULLFILLED BY THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

- 1) Educational programs, including lectures, films, exhibits, demonstrations, panel discussions, fieldtrips, etc.
- 2) A common meeting place for hobbyists to exchange ideas information.
- 3) Public exhibitions and shows.
- 4) Keep a current library of the species the members are currently growing.

ARTICLE III – OFFICERS

Section 1: Officers

Officers of the society shall consist of a President, Vice President, Recording/Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2: President

It shall be the duty of the president to preside at all meetings, appoint committees, start the meetings, layout the agenda of news/business at the meetings, introduce the speakers, and supervise elections. The president shall also be required to be the co-signatory on payments for the society's account(s).

Section 3: Vice President

It shall be the duty of the vice president to preside in the absence of the president, and to perform the duties of the president whenever he is not available.

Section 4: Recording/Corresponding Secretary

It shall be the duty of the recording/corresponding secretary to keep minutes of all meetings and attend to all correspondence. It shall also be the duty of the recording/corresponding secretary to keep records of attendance at meetings; to be responsible for receiving all dues, which shall be transferred to the treasurer; and to notify the membership of all meetings, special announcements, etc.

Section 5: Treasurer

It shall be the duty of the treasurer to issue receipts; also to issue payments of bills to cover expenses incurred by the society; and to report bi-monthly income and expenditures to the other current officers for their approval. The treasurer shall maintain a log of all received funds, expenditures and other transactions while serving their term.

Section 1: Nomination of Candidates

Any member in good standing may nominate a candidate for officer of the society, provided the candidate meets the criteria outlined in the subsequent sections.

Section 2: Candidates

Candidates for office shall be at least eighteen years of age. All candidates must be members in good standing (dues paid). Candidates for the office of the treasurer, prior to the assumption of that office, must have served a minimum of two complete years as a member.

Section 3: Terms of Office

The officers shall be elected for a one year term by members in good standing, and may be re-elected. The president is limited to two consecutive terms. After a break in service, a past president may run again.

Section 4: Nomination of Absent Members

No absent member shall be nominated for any office unless the member making the nomination shall vouch for such member's acceptance of office if elected.

Section 5: Election Date

Election shall be held at the January meeting. The current president or presiding officer shall oversee the nominating of candidates and tally the vote.

Section 6: Vacancies

In case of vacancy in any office, a new officer shall be nominated by the current president and approved by the other current officers to fill the unexpired term.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

Section 1: Regular Meetings

The regular meetings shall be held on the first Sunday of every month unless otherwise designated.

Section 2: Special Meetings

Special Meetings may be called by the current president, or by written request of three members in good standing. No business shall be transacted except that for which such meeting was called. The membership must receive notice of such meetings.

Section 3: Quorums

A quorum shall be necessary to transact official business at any meeting. A quorum will consist of a minimum of five members in good standing, two of which must be current officers.

ARTICLE VI – DUES AND MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Dues

Annual dues for membership shall be set by the current officers. Changes in dues must be approved by the members. Specific provision for pro rated memberships for new members not on the rolls the prior year and special awarded memberships may be granted as provided by a membership vote and documented by the current secretary.

Section 1a: Membership Applications

Any application for membership to the Pittsburgh Area Planted Aquarium Society is subject to review by the current officers prior to final approval. Any applicants' membership application may be rejected by a majority vote of the current officers. Reasons include, but not limited to the following: prior incidents of theft, terrorist threats, sexual harassment or inappropriate actions towards the organization or its' membership, unauthorized use of the Pittsburgh Area Planted Aquarium Society's name or use of its assets. An application that has been rejected may be resubmitted by the applicant for review in one year.

Section 2: Membership Term

Membership is granted for ONE CALANDAR YEAR (JANUARY 1 THOURGH DECEMBER 31) in the year that dues are paid. Dues may be paid in advance for the following year.

Section 3: Delinquent Dues

Those becoming delinquent in membership shall be given two notices by the current secretary. If dues are not forthcoming, they will be dropped from the membership list.

Section 4: Payment of Dues

Dues are payable to the current recording/corresponding secretary.

ARTICLE VII – ASSETS AT DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of the Society, assets shall be distributed through an auction administered by an independent third party to satisfy any debts incurred by the Society

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

To amend these bylaws, it shall be necessary to read the proposed amendment at one general meeting of the Society, and must be approved by a majority of the membership at the following general meeting.