

BYLAWS OF THE LONE STAR AFRICAN VIOLET COUNCIL

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be Lone Star African Violet Council. The Lone Star African Violet Council was organized on May 17, 1975.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to provide a convenient and beneficial association of persons interested in the culture of African violets and other gesneriads. This organization shall stimulate interest and provide instruction and information in the culture of African violets and other gesneriads.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in this Council shall be open to all African violet clubs in the state of Texas.

Section 2. Interested persons residing in or outside the state of Texas, who are not members of a Texas affiliate club, shall be eligible for membership as independents. Persons residing out of state may also join a Texas affiliate, if the bylaws of that affiliate allow such participation.

Section 3. This Council shall be a member of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. (AVSA).

Section 4. Any Texas Affiliate member or any independent subscriber, whether residing in the state of Texas or out of the state of Texas, may participate and exhibit in a show sponsored by the Lone Star African Violet Council. These exhibitors must be paid independent subscribers or contributing members, in good standing, of a Texas affiliate club. A subscriber is defined as one who pays to receive a personal copy of the Lone Star Newsletter and a copy of the Lone Star African Violet Council Directory. A member is defined as one who is a member of a Texas affiliate. This membership in a Texas affiliate automatically makes one a member of Lone Star African Violet Council but does not offer a personal copy of the Lone Star Newsletter or Directory. Both subscribers and members are eligible to participate in a Lone Star African Violet Council show.

Section 5. Council membership shall consist of all members of affiliate clubs and independents.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Officers of this Council shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Past President and Newsletter Co-editors.

Section 2. Officers shall be elected for a term of two (2) years, and cannot serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same office with the exception of the Newsletter Co-editors who may serve an additional term of two (2) years or until their successors are elected.

Section 3. The Executive Board shall consist of the elected officers, two Directors elected at large from the general membership, the immediate Past President, a Historian, Parliamentarian and Membership Chair appointed by the President. Directors' terms shall be the same as other board members.

Section 4. A member of the Executive Board must be a member of a Texas affiliate club or an independent. Only one member of the Executive Board shall reside outside the State of Texas.

Section 5. Election of officers and directors shall be held at the annual meeting. A Nominating Committee, composed of three (3) members shall present a slate of nominees for office. The Executive Board shall elect the Nominating Committee Chair. Nominations may also be accepted from the floor provided the nominee has consented.

Section 6. In case an officer cannot fulfill his or her term of office, the Executive Board shall appoint a member to fill the position until the next meeting when a permanent replacement can be elected. In case the President cannot fulfill his or her term of office, the Vice President shall assume the office of the President and another Vice President will be elected.

ARTICLE V - AMENDMENTS

The constitution of this Council may be amended at any regular meeting of this organization by two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting, provided the amendment has been presented to the membership in writing at least one (1) month prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS AND VOTING

Section 1. The Council shall meet once a year in October or November for the purpose of a business meeting, elect officers, and an African violet show.

Section 2. The Executive Board may call a special meeting of the Council for the purpose of sponsoring a Judges school or for other matters of substance.

Section 3. The President may call a special meeting of the Executive Board anytime there is a need for such a meeting.

Section 4. Meetings may be conducted via telephone, postal, and/or the Internet, using Zoom or similar platforms or Email. These meetings may be used by the Executive Committee or the general membership to transact business. Actions taken by these means should be ratified at the next annual meeting of the Council. The LSAVC membership and committees shall be authorized to meet by telephone conference or through other electronic communications media as long as all the members can simultaneously hear each other and participate during the meeting. Participating members shall announce their name, and the secretary shall record the names of those participating and confirm that there is a quorum.

Section 5. An affiliate club may have two (2) votes on all matters before the Council, which shall be accomplished by two registered delegates in attendance. These two (2) delegates, if having more than one (1) club affiliation may register to vote with no more than one (1) club.

Section 6. Independent members may form a separate group which may have two (2) votes on all matters before the Council, which shall be accomplished by two registered delegates in attendance being elected from the group.

ARTICLE VII - FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year shall begin May 1 and end April 30.

ARTICLE VIII - DUES

Section 1. Dues for the Texas Affiliate Members and Newsletter Subscribers as well as independents, whether in state or out of state, are payable on May 1st of each year. Payment entitles the subscriber to one (1) subscription of the Newsletter and one (1) copy of the Directory. Renewals received after May 31 will be considered late and may result in the Newsletter (s) temporarily missed.

ARTICLE IX - DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Council and at all meetings of the Executive Board. The President shall appoint a Historian, a Parliamentarian, and all committees, except for the Nominating Committee, and shall be ex officio member of all committees, except for the Nominating Committee. The President may, at any time, appoint any committees considered necessary.

Section 2. The Vice President shall perform all duties of the President in the absence of that officer. The Vice President shall also assist with programs when needed, assume charge of the voting cards, proof all changes in the constitution and bylaws and standing rules, and see that the convention manual is kept up-to-date.

Section 3. The Secretary shall keep and preserve accurate minutes of the Council and shall conduct any correspondence as directed by the President. The Secretary should supply the Membership Chair with all bylaws and standing rules changes by August 1 of each year. The secretary's digital files shall be passed on to the next Secretary. Secretarial records older than seven (7) years shall be turned over to the historian.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall handle all money of the Council and keep proper records. All bills approved by the Council shall be paid. A financial report shall be presented at the annual meeting and filed with the Secretary.

Section 5. The Newsletter Co-editors shall be responsible for the publication and mailing of the newsletter, made up from communications pertaining to Council business, culture information, and general news items.

Section 6. The Historian shall hold all retired secretary books and shall keep a scrapbook of all publicity and activities of the Council. These shall be passed to a successor.

Section 7. The Parliamentarian shall be familiar with parliamentary procedures and shall decide all points of order when appealed to by the chair or body.

ARTICLE X - DUTIES OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Executive Board elects a Nominating Chairman and two members are nominated and elected from the floor at the first meeting for the President's two year term of office. The committee then presents a slate of officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and Newsletter Co-Editor at the last meeting of the President's last two year term. After nominations from the floor are requested, election of officers is held. If there is only one nominee for each office, they can be elected by acclamation, otherwise, written ballot. Two Directors shall be nominated from the floor to serve a two-year term each. Installation of officers will be held at the Awards Banquet during the convention.

AUDITING COMMITTEE: The outgoing president will appoint a three (3) member committee made up of a Board member, a member with accounting experience and the outgoing treasurer to audit the books each time a treasurer leaves office.

ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENTS

The bylaws of this Council may be amended at any annual meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting, provided the amendment has been presented in writing to the membership at least one (1) month prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE XII - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern all questions of parliamentary law not covered by the constitution and bylaws.

ARTICLE XIII – TERMS OF EXISTANCE

Upon dissolution, all assets of the organization, real, personal and mixed, shall be distributed, as the Board of Directors of the Organization may determine, to an organization whose purpose is similar to that of the LSAVC and which qualifies as a tax exempt organization under the provisions of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. No director or officer or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of an organization assets upon dissolution of the Organization.

STANDING RULES OF THE LONE STAR AFRICAN VIOLET COUNCIL

I. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

A. Membership in the Lone Star African Violet Council shall be open to the following:

1. Texas Affiliate Clubs—Clubs in the State of Texas paying dues of \$15.00 and will receive one subscription to the Newsletter and one copy of the Directory. Club Members are eligible to participate in a Lone Star African Violet Council Show.
2. Affiliate Members – Affiliate Members are those who are members of a Lone Star Affiliate and reside in or outside the State of Texas. Texas Affiliate Members who wish to receive a personal copy of both the Newsletter and Directory, in either an electronic or hard copy

format, shall pay \$10.00. Affiliate Members are eligible to participate in a Lone Star African Violet Council Show.

3. Independent Members—Independent Members reside either inside or outside the State of Texas and are not members of a Texas Affiliate. Payment of \$10.00 dues shall be made and entitles Independents to receive an electronic or hard copy of both the Newsletter and Directory. Independent Members are eligible to participate in a Lone Star African Violet Council Show.
- B. Lone Star African Violet Council dues whether Affiliate or Independent shall be set at the Lone Star African Violet Council Annual Meeting by registered voting delegates present.
- C. An Affiliate shall be represented by two Registered Delegates. (Refer to: Article VI – Meetings and Voting, Section 5.)
- D. All Independents will be considered as members of 1 (one) single independent LSAVC affiliate group with two (2) votes assigned to this group. (Refer to: Article VI – Meetings and Voting, Section 6.) This Independent group may form a separate group which may have two (2) votes on all matters before the Council, which shall be accomplished by two registered delegates in attendance being elected from the group.
- E. Delegates who are members of more than one Affiliate may represent only one Affiliate in regard to voting.

II. ANNUAL MEETINGS

- A. A hosting club or groups of clubs from one or more towns should address a letter of invitation to the LSAVC president for a decision by the executive board.
- B. The hosting club will identify and solicit a contract from a hotel which will provide space for a show, banquet, meeting rooms and a sales room. The sales room will be at the option of the hosting group. The hosting group has the option of inviting one (1) or more commercial sales organizations, whether affiliated with LSAVC or not, as long as said person agrees to pay registration fees and fees for their sales table.
- C. The hotel contract should be reviewed and approved by the LSAVC President and Treasurer, and signed by the LSAVC President.
- D. Other requirements:
 1. The hosting group may arrange for a hospitality room if they so desire and if allowed by hotel.
 2. The hosting group will arrange for a dinner meal for the awards banquet.
- E. Plan programs. The LSAVC vice president will assist if needed.
- F. The hosting group will assure that registration and banquets fees for registrants should cover all meeting expenses.
- G. The hosting group will plan an AVSA judged show.
- H. The LSAVC standard show schedule will be used as a guideline for all LSAVC shows.

- I. In the case of a financial hardship, seed money for the affiliate club(s) hosting the fall convention can be requested from the Convention Fund; a maximum of \$2,000 can be requested unless a greater amount is approved by the Executive Board. These funds should be repaid before any profit is figured. The profit is to be divided equally between the affiliate and the LSAVC Convention Fund. If the convention loses money the amount will be deducted from the advance.
- J. Any profits from the fall convention will be shared equally by the hosting group and LSAVC.
- K. The hosting group will be responsible for preparing and submitting all publicity and award information.
- L. If the hotel provides a complimentary room it will be reserved for the LSAVC president; otherwise LSAVC will provide a room if Convention Account has sufficient funds.

III. SERVICES PROVIDED BY LSAVC

- A. Award ribbons for LSAVC shows. Blue - first, Red - second, White - third.
- B. LSAVC collection awards for LSAVC Council shows and for affiliate shows, when proper application is made.
- C. Show awards will be contributed annually to AVSA, LSAVC, and Dixie AVS. The amounts of each donation will be determined at the annual business meeting.
- D. AVSA affiliate insurance will be secured based on the number of members.

IV. LSAVC COLLECTION AWARDS

Affiliate clubs in good standing are offered first and second place rosettes, once a year, to be awarded to the best and second best Texas hybrid collection. To be eligible for the rosettes, the rules set out below must be followed:

- A. The affiliated club must be currently paid up on LSAVC dues.
- B. Classes must be included in the show schedule for LSAVC collections. An affiliated club may apply for both the standard and miniature, semi miniature collection awards or only the standard collection award.
- C. Affiliate show must be governed by AVSA rules.
- D. Collections must be made up of three (3) different African violets, each hybridized by a Texas hybridizer. Some proof of origin should be available. They should be listed on the LSAVC Texas hybrid list, on the grower's list, a written statement from the hybridizer, or commonly known as a Texas hybrid. The plants in each collection must be all standard, all miniature, all semi miniature, or trailers--either standard, miniature, or semi miniature. The plants may or may not be registered with AVSA. To receive the rosettes, each plant in a collection must score 90 or above.
 - 1. Standard Collections: The plants in this collection must be all standard specimen or trailer plants.
 - 2. Miniature and Semi miniature Collections: the plants in this collection must be all miniature or semi miniature specimen or trailer plants.

Or when applying for only one (1) set of LSAVC Collection awards:

3. The plants in each collection must be all standard, all miniature, all semi miniature, or trailer standard, miniature, or semi miniature.
- E. The affiliate show chairman should request the rosettes from LSAVC Awards Chairman approximately one (1) month in advance of the show. Applications should include one (1) copy of the show schedule, the current cost of the rosettes, and the cost of First Class postage.
- F. Any member of an LSAVC affiliate will be eligible to enter the LSAVC Collection classes and need not be an individual subscriber to the LSAVC Newsletter. Independents will be eligible to enter the LSAVC Collection classes. An exhibitor may enter both the standard and miniature/semi miniature classes if both are included in the show schedule.
- G. The score sheets for the two (2) highest scoring Collections should be returned to the LSAVC Awards Chairman, provided that a score of 90 or above was awarded each plant in the collection. Rosettes not awarded may be retained by the affiliate for future use.
- H. H. Collections must be judged by accredited AVSA judges in good standing.

V. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- A. NEWSLETTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE. The LSAVC President may establish a Newsletter Advisory Committee to assist with decisions of policy and to avail itself to the problems of the subscribers, advertisers and newsletter co-editors.
- B. MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION COMMITTEE. The duties of this committee are:
 1. To prepare the annual Directory,
 2. To contact subscribers, and
 3. To prepare articles when appropriate for the Newsletter.

VI. WEBSITE

- A. A website shall be maintained by Lone Star African Violet Council for the benefit of its members and to inform the public about African violets and events in the state. The President shall appoint a Web Administrator.
- B. Expenses of the website shall be approved by the Executive Committee and reimbursed by the Treasurer.

VII. MEMORIALS

- A. Memorial donations to the AVSA Tinari Fund are to be made each year for members who have passed away since the last LSAVC convention. The amount of the gifts are as follows and are cumulative, depending on offices held: LSAVC Member -\$25.00; LSAVC President - \$50.00; AVSA President -\$75.00.

Amended November 4, 1989; October 30, 1992; November 4, 1995; November 8, 1997; October 31, 1998; November 2, 2002; November 1, 2003; November 1, 2008; November 7, 2009; November 1, 2014; November 5, 2016, November 11, 2017; November 2, 2019; October 28, 2021, February 28, 2025.