

# REGION SEVEN BYLAWS

## AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

### REVISED SEPTEMBER 2017

#### **ARTICLE I – NAME**

The name of this organization shall be REGION SEVEN – AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY.

#### **ARTICLE II - PURPOSES**

##### Section 1. Purpose

The purpose of Region 7 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 those interested in learning about irises by any means consistent with the 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

Region 7 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, Region 7 shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on:
  1. by an organization exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or;
  2. 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 Region 7 shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and Region 7 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**

All members of The American Iris Society with Tennessee or Kentucky mailing addresses shall automatically become members of this organization without payment of dues. Terms of membership in Region 7 shall run concurrently with membership in The American Iris Society.

#### **ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS**

Section A. Any candidate for office in this organization must have been a member in good standing in The American Iris Society for a minimum of three (3) consecutive years. The nominating committee will nominate the following: Regional Vice President, Assistant Regional Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section B. The officers will be elected for a three year term at the annual fall meeting for confirmation by a majority vote of the membership present. The Regional Vice President is subject to the approval of the Officers and Directors of The American Iris Society. Succession as RVP may not occur until a period of three (3) years has elapsed, after which nomination may be again considered.

Section C. The Nomination Committee will consist of three members elected at the regional spring meeting with nominations from the floor. All members of this committee must also be members in good standing with The American Iris Society. The Regional Vice President, although an ex-officio member of all other committees, is excluded from participation on this Committee.

Section D. The duties of each officer follow:

The REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT will

- a. preside at all meetings;
- b. preside at all meetings of the board of directors;
- c. appoint all committees except the nominating committee, and exercise general supervision over them;
- d. serve as ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee;
- e. create special committees as the need arises; and
- f. attend all regional functions;

In the event of the Regional Vice President's absence at a regional function, the presiding officer will be determined in the following order and will assume official RVP duties for that function: Assistant Regional Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the most senior member of the board of directors.

The SECRETARY will:

- a. record the minutes of all business meetings and meetings of the board of directors;
- b. keep all recorded minutes as permanent records;
- c. conduct correspondence and mailing under the direction of the Regional Vice President; and
- d. be responsible to see that notices of any meetings are mailed to members at least 30 days prior to those meetings.

The TREASURER will be the custodian of all monies belonging to this organization or under its control:

- a. deposit all funds in the name of the organization in a bank of his/her choosing;
- b. pay all bills incurred by the society;
- c. reimburse the members of Region Seven with funds for postage and other minor expenses incurred while fulfilling their assigned duties. Any expenditure of \$100 or more may be made only upon the authorization of the board of directors, either by vote while they are in session or the written or email consent of a majority of the elected board members.

Section E. With further reference to the election of the Regional Vice President, additional nominations may be made by petition of the general membership. Each petition shall be signed by the nominee and endorsed by five (5) percent of Region 7 members, with not over three (3) percent of this minimum amount from either state. Such nominations must be in the hands of the Secretary by July 1<sup>st</sup>. In the event that only one nominee for the office of Regional Vice President exists, this nominee shall be considered elected, without the necessity of a vote by mail. If there is more than one nomination for the office of Regional Vice President, an election shall be held by mail, the Secretary mailing ballots to all members of the Region. These ballots shall be mailed on or prior to August 1<sup>st</sup>, and shall be returned to the Secretary before September 1<sup>st</sup>. All qualifying nominees shall be placed on the ballot.

## **ARTICLE V – MEETINGS**

Section A. This organization will hold at least two meetings annually;

one in the fall and one in the spring. All business of Region 7 may be conducted at these meetings. The election of New Officers, with the exception of the Regional Vice President, will be held at the fall meeting.

Section B. Special meetings may be called by the RVP with the unanimous consent of the board of directors.

## **ARTICLE VI – BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Section A. There will be eight (8) members of the Board of Directors;

Section B. There will be three (3) elected Trustees whose terms expire in different consecutive years. One Trustee will be elected at each official annual (fall) meeting. The Regional Vice President, Assistant Regional Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and immediate Past Regional Vice President will also be members of this board. No succession of a board member or trustee may occur until a period of one year on non-service has elapsed. Terms of the five officers shall coincide with the term of the Regional Vice President.

Section C. The Board of Directors may make rules and regulations or delegate any of its responsibilities during a given year as it may deem appropriate, being certain they do not conflict with The American Iris Society. The Board of Directors will have complete and comprehensive power and authority to conduct the affairs of this organization with full power and discretion in any and all situations that may arise. All members may attend all regular meetings of the board of directors, but shall not be extended voting privileges.

Section D. In the event of a vacancy, the Regional Vice President or any member of this board may submit nominations to the members of the Board of Directors for approval by majority vote of the membership at any regular spring or fall meeting. Additionally, nominations may be submitted from the floor by any member present.

## **ARTICLE VII – STANDING COMMITTEES**

Section A. Standing committees are as follows: Judges Training, Publications, Awards, Membership, Youth, and Finance.

Section B. Within 30 days of taking office, the Regional Vice President will appoint the committees designated in Section A, except the Finance Committee which will automatically consist of the three elected board members.

Section C. The Finance Committee must examine all expenditures of this organization and it shall be their duty to have general supervision of the finances and to audit or have the books of the Treasurer audited prior to the annual meeting.

The Judges Training Committee must have as its chairman a person who has been an accredited judge of The American Iris Society for at least 3 consecutive years. While not violating the official regulations of The American Iris Society, guidelines and requirements above and beyond those of the AIS may be submitted to the membership for recommendation and approval of judgeships for Region 7 and for current judges to maintain their status as an approved judge. Majority vote at a business meeting is required for implementation.

The Publications Committee will be chaired by an editor, and may include a webmaster and social media manager. The official publication will be The Region Seven *Irisarian* and it shall be issued twice yearly, sent to all Region Seven members at least 30 days prior to the fall and spring meetings. If sent electronically, club presidents will be responsible for distributing copies to their club members without email. The editor will distribute copies to members without email who are not affiliated with any club, according to the membership roster.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

The latest edition of Roberts Rules of Order shall be used in all meetings of this organization to cover questions not provided for in these Bylaws.

#### **ARTICLE IX – APPROVAL OF BYLAWS**

Section A. After presentation at the annual spring meeting and publication of this revision in the fall issue of *The Irisarian*, they shall be presented for approval at the fall meeting (that same fall). Approval requires a two-thirds vote of the membership present. A quorum of twenty members must be present.

Section B. Region Seven Bylaws shall be reviewed every three (3) years by a committee appointed by the RVP.

#### **ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS**

Amendments or revisions to these bylaws must follow the same procedure as outlined in Article IX.

Reviewed in 1996 — No Change

Reviewed in 2000 — No Change

Revised September 2003

Revised May 2006

Revised September 2006

Reviewed September 2009 — No Change

Reviewed September 2014 — No Change

Revised September 2017