

ARGONNE GARDEN CLUB BYLAWS

MARCH 2011

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be "Argonne Garden Club," hereafter, the Club.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

Section 2.01 This Club is organized to accomplish the following purposes:

- (a) To provide recreation to its members in connection with gardening.
- (b) To further horticultural knowledge.
- (c) To promote organic cultivation of quality produce using environmentally sound gardening practices.
- (d) To promote social activities between members of this Club including plant exchanges and other events.

Section 2.02 The Club shall be operated exclusively for the purposes enumerated in Section 2 of this Article II and its organization and activities are not designed for and shall not result in financial or pecuniary gain or profit to this entity or its members.

Section 2.03 Notwithstanding anything contrary set forth herein, use of the Argonne facilities and plots by the Club and its members shall be in accordance with the policies established by Argonne National Laboratory and guidelines established by Facilities Management and Services Division (FMS).

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

The Club is open to all employees and retirees of Argonne National Laboratory, Department of Energy (Chicago Operations Office) and all consultants, loanees and other persons associated with and/or assigned to the work of Argonne National Laboratory.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

Section 4.01 The officers of the Club shall be a President, Secretary, and Treasurer and Steward(s).

Section 4.02 The President shall act as official spokesperson for the Club. She/he shall chair all meetings and may call special meetings of the Executive Board and the general membership. She/he may appoint committees and shall instruct and assist other officers in their duties as needed.

Section 4.03 The Secretary shall record the minutes of each meeting and report them as requested by the President along with any pertinent correspondence received. The Secretary shall also be required to handle any correspondence sent out by the Club, as requested by the President.

Section 4.04 The Treasurer shall be responsible for all funds and accounts of the Club. The Treasurer shall receive all monies and make payments as authorized. She/he shall keep accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements and render reports as needed for meetings or requested by the President.

Section 4.05 The Steward is a representative who relays ideas, requests and problems to the rest of the club officers. He is a liaison with the gardeners and reports to the officers. The number of stewards shall be as needed per geographically separate plot area.

Section 4.06 Election and seating of club officers shall be conducted annually. A term of office shall be for one year beginning January 1.

Section 4.07 The election of President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be by email ballot and from open nominations. A majority of responding club members shall elect in all cases.

Section 4.08 The appointment of Stewards shall be by the club officers.

Section 4.09 A vacancy in office shall be filled for the remainder of the term by appointment by the remaining club officers.

ARTICLE V. DUES AND FEES

Section 5.01 Dues and fees shall be set by the officers with the approval of the membership. The dues and fees may be reviewed each year and revised if necessary.

Section 5.02 Annual Club dues of \$5 per year are to be paid by the start of the clubs activity year, April 1. All gardeners who wish to have a plot assigned to them must join the Club and sign a liability waiver at the beginning of the season each year. Any member who has not paid dues by June 1, once notice of failure having been given, has forfeited membership.

Section 5.03 Plot dues of \$5 per plot are required to be paid by a Club member in order to be assigned a plot. The dues shall be used to purchase items not covered by Argonne such as water hoses, nozzles, fencing, compost bins, hand tools, etc. All purchases must be logged and are limited to gardening related supplies and equipment which have been approved by the Club officers. With input from area gardeners, the steward shall help determine what supplies are necessary. Any member who has not paid plot dues by the determined deadline, once notice of failure having been given, shall forfeit assignment of the plot.

Section 5.04 Current per capita dues of \$1.00 shall be paid out of the annual dues by the Club to the Argonne Club yearly.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS:

Section 6.01 Meetings of the Club Officers shall be held as necessary.

Section 6.02 Special meetings may be called at the request of the President or by petition of 10 members. The purpose of the special meeting shall be stated in the call and no other business transacted.

Section 6.03 A quorum shall be 20% of the members of the club or 10 members, whichever is greater.

Section 6.04 Club business shall be determined by a simple majority of voting club members. Early voting shall be counted for members missing a meeting but no votes shall be accepted after a voting meeting.

ARTICLE VII. RULES

Section 7.01 Any garden not planted by July 1 may be mowed for the rest of the season to reduce weeds from flowering and scattering seeds. Additionally, the plot assignee may be contacted by a steward to see if he is relinquishing assignment for the season or permanently. A plot may be assigned to someone else for the season if there is a waiting list of people interested in planting in that area and the assignee relinquishes it for the season. The following year, assignment shall revert back to the original assignee until he permanently relinquishes it by informing the Club.

Section 7.02 Electric and gas powered equipment are not allowed.

Section 7.03 No form of chemical herbicide or pesticide is allowed. Natural herbicides and pesticides are acceptable.

Section 7.04 Compost piles or bins are an acceptable and encouraged form of recycling organic waste. If an area starts a compost pile, it must be used periodically to prevent a buildup of waste.

ARTICLE VIII. REVIEW AND REVISION OF BYLAWS

Section 8.01 These bylaws shall be reviewed by Club Officers one time during each annual term of office. The Officers shall recommend changes which shall then be voted upon. Changes shall be enacted based on majority vote of the members and incorporated into the Bylaws immediately following the vote.