

**CONSTITUTION**

and

**BY-LAWS**

of the

**Indianapolis Gardeners'  
Benefit Society**

in

**Indianapolis, Indiana**

— 1935 —

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**  
**of the**  
**INDIANAPOLIS GARDENERS**  
**BENEFIT SOCIETY**  
**in Indianapolis, Ind.**

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The society was founded under the name of Indianapolis Gardeners Society on July 6, 1867, and was changed to the German Gardeners Benefit Society on May 2, 1886, and again changed November 17, 1934, as mentioned in Article 1.

**Article 1. Name**

The name of this society shall be Indianapolis Gardeners Benefit Society of Indianapolis, Ind.

**Article 2. Object**

Sec. 1. The object of this society is to promote the science of horticulture, floriculture, etc., and to raise it to the highest possible standard.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of every member to communicate to any other member, upon the latter's request, any inventions which serve to promote horticulture or floriculture, and further shall it be the duty of all members to assist one another with word and deed.

### Article 3. Membership

1. Anybody wishing to become a member must be a gardener, must do practical gardening, must possess an unstained reputation, must be not less than 21 and not more than 50 years old; he must also be physically healthy.

Sec. 2. The admittance fee shall be fixed and regulated in the by-laws. In case the candidate is not accepted as a member, the money shall be refunded. The vote shall be by ballot. In case two black ballot balls should fall, the cause therefore must be thoroughly investigated. Hatred or envy will not be recognized.

Sec. 3. Every member is in duty bound to adhere willing to the constitution and the by-laws and to attend the meetings as regularly as possible.

Sec. 4. In case of disorderly demeanor of a member, either in meeting or outside, a written complaint shall be filed against him, and the president is authorized to appoint a committee of five. This committee shall elect a chairman and send a written summons to accuser as well as accused to appear before them. Either party is entitled to bring witnesses. Should the committee find the accused member guilty the latter shall,—in case of a first-time offense, receive a reprimand, in case of a repetition he can be suspended, but such suspension can be decided upon only by ballot.

A two-third majority of votes is decisive.

Sec. 5. Any member accepted into membership after July 3, 1910, who later gives

up gardening and earns his livelihood by some other occupation shall be expelled from and shall lose all claims on this society. Such members who retire from work are excepted.

### Article 4. Officers

Sec. 1 The officers of this society shall be:

1. a president,
2. a vice-president,
3. a corresponding secretary,
4. a financial secretary,
5. a treasurer,
6. three trustees.

Sec. 2. The officers shall be elected for one year, the trustees for three years. The election shall take place in the regular business meeting, in the month of December of each year.

Sec. 3. The regular nomination takes place in the month preceding the election. Members who are not present can also be nominated, in which case the corresponding secretary shall advise them of their nomination in writing within a fortnight.

Sec. 4. A majority of votes decides election, and he who has received such majority shall be declared elected and shall take his seat of office in the next regular meeting, unless he is prevented from doing so by sickness or other unavoidable circumstances.

Sec. 5. Offices which become vacant shall be filled by election in the next regular meeting.

## Article 5. Duties of Officers

Section 1. The president shall preside in all meetings of the society. He also has to sign any draft on the treasury and announcements in the newspapers, together with the secretary. It shall further be his special duty to see that the constitution is upheld, and that any resolution of the society is carried out.

Sec. 2. The vice-president shall assist the president in his office duties and shall take his place if he is absent.

Sec. 3. The corresponding secretary shall keep the minutes; shall sign any announcements in newspapers together with the president; in case of extraordinary meetings he shall advise any member in writing; he also shall keep an up-to-date list of members.

Sec. 4. The financial secretary shall receive all money and give receipt for same, he shall keep a proper account of the receipts and expenditures, he shall hand all money to the treasurer against receipt and shall keep the seal of the society.

Sec. 5. The trustees shall keep the property of the society; shall conclude all binding contracts, in case of law-suits they shall represent the society in court, and shall fulfill all other duties required of them in the by-laws.

## Article 6. Benefits

Section 1. If a member gets sick and is unable to work, he shall receive four dollars per week, but the sickness must have lasted

for a full week, otherwise no sick benefit shall be paid. In order to draw benefits the member must not be in arrears with his quarterly dues. In doubtful cases the member who claims benefits shall produce, at his own expense, a doctor's certificate authenticated by a public notary, in which the kind and duration of the sickness are stated; but no member to draw more than (6) six months benefits in any one year.

Sec. 2. Every year the president shall appoint a sick committee, one for every district, whose duty it shall be to visit, twice a week, any sick member in his particular district, as soon as such member has reported himself sick. In the next regular meeting the committee members shall give a report on their visits. If members of the sick committee do not fulfill their duty, they shall be fined 50 cents in every case. If a member of the sick committee gets sick himself, he shall notify the member living nearest to him. The latter shall then report the case to the president.

Sec. 3. If a member dies, the society pays \$100 to his heirs. If there are no heirs the society contributes up to \$100 to the funeral expenses. If these expenses are less than \$100, the remaining amount will go back to the treasury of the society.

Sec. 4. At the death of a member, every surviving member shall pay one extra dollar together with his next quarterly dues.

Sec. 5. If the wife of a member dies, he shall receive \$50 from the treasury, and every member shall pay 50 cents extra.

Sec. 6. In the case of a member's death, or a member's wife's death, the president and the secretary shall send resolutions of condolence to the relatives, in the name of the society, and shall give a report in the next meeting. The treasurer shall straighten all money matters as soon as possible after the funeral.

Sec. 7. If a member has not paid his quarterly dues in the next regular meeting after they become payable, and then falls sick, he shall not be entitled to any benefits during a period of three months.

## Article 7. Alteration and Dissolution

Section 1. This constitution shall not be altered or improved, unless a two-third majority of members present require it. It shall then be open for debate in three consecutive regular meetings.

Sec. 2. This society shall remain in existence as long as 15 members belong to it; if the last 15 members decide its dissolution, the property of the society shall be given to orphans' homes.

Sec. 3. However, should there be any orphans or widows of former members of the society who were in good standing up to their death, these shall be considered first.

## BY-LAWS

Section 1. The admittance fee for membership is for persons in the age of 21 to 35 years, ten dollars; 35 to 40 years, fifteen dollars; 40 to 45 years, twenty dollars; 45 to 50 years, thirty dollars.

Sec. 2. Applicants for membership must be residents of Marion or adjoining counties. They can only be admitted into membership in the months of January, April, July and October. A member must have belonged to the society for three months before he is entitled to sick benefit.

Sec. 3. Candidates must apply one month before the probable date of admittance, must be between 21 and 50 years old, and must be physically healthy.

Sec. 4. The president shall then appoint an investigating committee, consisting of three members, whose duty it shall be to obtain information about the candidate's character. This committee shall also read the constitution to the candidate, or let him read it himself, and shall then report to the society.

Sec. 5. The dues have been fixed at \$1 quarterly and shall be paid in the months of January, April, July and October. A member who is more than two months in arrears, can be expelled after having received written notice from the financial secretary. After being a member for 40 years the member is exempted from paying dues.

Sec. 6. All elections shall be by ballot.

Sec. 7. The two secretaries receive a remuneration of twenty dollars annually to be

paid quarterly. They have, however, to pay quarterly dues.

Sec. 8. The treasurer shall give \$500 security; he must not give money out of his hands as a loan, if the note given therefore has not been recognized by the society. Before loaning out money, care has to be taken that \$300 must always remain in the treasury for unforeseen cases. The treasurer shall receive a remuneration of twenty dollars annually.

Sec. 9. The society charges interest at the rate of \$6 for \$100 for all loaned-out money. For loans up to \$200 the society requires good security, loans of more than \$200 must be secured by mortgage. Mortgage loans to members at 5 per cent interest.

Sec. 10. From now on all notes shall expire in five years.

Sec. 11. If a member behaves unseemly in a meeting, he shall be called to order by the president. In case of repetition the president can have him expelled from the meeting.

Sec. 12. Members of the society who have reached the age of 60 are not obliged to attend any festivities of the society.

Sec. 13. In case of any festivities decided upon by the society, every member has to pay the fixed entrance fee, even if he does not attend, except he can give a sufficient excuse or the society shall decide different.

Sec. 14. The regular business meetings take place on the first Sunday of every month at 2:00 P. M. Fifteen members form a quorum whose decision must be considered valid.

Sec. 15. The president appoints all committees; if necessary, he can also appoint a door guard.

Sec. 16. No officer can be elected as trustee. The trustees must collect, as soon as possible, any money loaned to members who have since severed their connection with the society or who have been expelled.

Sec. 17. In case of sickness or absence of the treasurer the president shall appoint one of the trustees in his place until the treasurer is again able to take up his office duties.

Sec. 18. At the funeral of a member the president and the vice-president, as marshals, shall go in front, the marshal's staffs in their hands, dressed in mourning.

Sec. 19. If a member dies, the sick committee has to notify the president immediately.

Sec. 20. It shall then be the duty of the president to go to the relatives of the deceased and to ask them whether they will permit the ceremonies of the society and whether he belongs to some other society.

Sec. 21. If the relatives desire a private funeral or a funeral done entirely by the church, no member is obliged to attend, and those who do, are not allowed to wear the insignia of the society.

Sec. 22. The marshals shall order the coaches, the pallbearers and the flowers. The deceased member shall also wear his rosette. All officers shall go to the cemetery in coaches.

Sec. 23. Flowers with the inscription I. G. B. S. shall be bought, if possible, for every deceased member.

Sec. 24. A member shall be entitled to sick benefit beginning with the date on which he reported himself sick to the sick committee.

Sec. 25. A member in mourning shall be considered excused from attending any festivities of the society for a period of three months.

Sec. 26. Every member has to report his correct address to the financial secretary.

Sec. 27. All notes shall be signed in the presence of the treasurer.

Sec. 28. Members are forbidden to talk about the business discussions which may have taken place in meetings of the society to other persons outside the meetings; in case of non-compliance with this rule a member can be suspended for a period to be fixed by the society.

Sec. 29. A member is allowed to speak only after having asked the president for permission. The president gives permission to speak in the order in which the members ask for it.

Sec. 30. Every motion must be seconded by at least two members, before the president presents it to the meeting for debate.

Sec. 31. Every speaker shall restrict himself to the discussion of the motion in question; should he deviate from the subject, he shall be called to order by the president.

Sec. 32. No second motion can be made as long as the first one is not disposed of; but amendments can be proposed, in which case the amendments shall be put to vote first and then the motion itself.

Sec. 33. A majority of votes decides. In the case of an even number of votes, the president shall decide, except in the election of officers.

Sec. 34. The close of a meeting is decided by a majority of votes.

### General Business Rules

1. The president shall open a meeting, at the fixed time, with the following words: "I herewith open the meeting," whereupon everybody shall take his seat and keep quiet.
2. Reading of the minutes of the last meeting.
3. Report of the sick committee.
4. Payment of dues and interests to the financial secretary.
5. Undecided questions.
6. Matters concerning the welfare of the society.
7. Reports of committees.
8. Communication and bills of the society.
9. Report of the financial secretary.
10. Closing of meeting.

This Constitution was altered and improved November 17, 1934.

The Committee,

HARRY STICKAN,  
HENRY BAUMER,  
FRED H. ROSEBROCK,  
FRANK FREUND,  
OSCAR FREUND,  
FRED FREUND,  
SIMON HAAG,  
CHAS. BREHOB  
WM. C. MEYER.