

**2022 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES of the  
LARAMIE COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS (LCMG)**

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## 1. EXECUTIVE BOARD

- A. The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer who shall be elected by the Active Members in accordance with Article VII of the Bylaws.
- B. The Executive Board shall review proposals and grants, for actions to be taken by the Active Membership, for consistency with the provisions of Article II of the Bylaws to ascertain if the proposals are financially feasible and to determine the necessary management process. Any Active Member proposing a grant shall be in charge of writing the grant and ensuring the completed grant application is provided to the Executive Board for consideration, Active Member voting, and signature.
- C. The Executive Board shall present its recommendations regarding said proposals at the membership meeting prior to Active Members voting on a proposed action.
- D. The Executive Board and newly elected officers shall meet every December before taking office to review the Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, and Wyoming Statutes. Committee chairs will be encouraged to attend. Outgoing officers will transfer officer materials at this meeting.
- E. Newly elected officers will attend Financial Review Committee meetings as observers.
- F. Upon receipt of the Financial Review findings, a written response will be prepared by the Executive Board which provides additional information and/or recommends remedial responses to be taken by LCMG. A report of the examination findings and responses will be presented to the membership at the first membership meeting following the completion of the Executive Board's response.
- G. The President shall:
  - i. Receive, open, review for obvious discrepancies and errors, and initial all bank statements prior to presenting them to the Treasurer.
  - ii. Write reports to be delivered to the Wyoming Master Gardener Association (WMGA) by the WMGA Delegates, and provide a copy to the Secretary.
  - iii. No less than 10 days prior to each membership meeting (W.S. 17-19-705(c)(i)), send an email to Active Members announcing the meeting, clearly stating in the body of the email what proposed actions are being recommended to the Active Membership by the Executive Board and any motion that has been put forth by an Active Member.
  - iv. No less than five (5) days prior to each membership meeting, forward to all Active Members the following PDF files via email:
    - a. Minutes of prior membership meeting(s);
    - b. Minutes of prior Executive Board meeting(s);
    - c. Treasurer's report(s);
    - d. The agenda for the coming membership meeting. Such agenda should also clearly state which items will or may be voted upon by the Active Membership at the meeting; and
    - e. Any documents to be discussed at the meeting.
  - v. Provide a verbal summary of the Financial Review and Executive Board Response to the membership at the first meeting in the second quarter of each calendar year, or upon the completion of each Financial Review. Announce verbally and by email that the board will provide a copy of the Financial Review and Executive Board Response to any Active Member upon request.
  - vi. Conduct meetings using rules of order embedded in these Bylaws and in the Policies and Procedures and, when needed, Roberts Rules of Order.
- H. The Vice President shall:
  - i. Ensure that an updated directory is published at intervals determined by the Executive Board, suggested annually.

- ii. Procure meeting rooms as needed for Executive Board meetings and membership meetings, relay this information to other members of the Executive Board, and ensure the information is posted on the website as appropriate.
  - iii. Be liaison between the committees and members of the Executive Board while each committee is active.
  - iv. Serve as chair or co-chair of the Programs Committee in the absence of a member volunteer.
- I. The Secretary shall:
- i. Write and keep all records (e.g., minutes) of the LCMG and Executive Board meetings. Minutes shall include but not be limited to dates and times called to order and adjourned, locations, attendance lists, Monthly/Annual Treasurer's Reports, who officiated, number of Active Members who participated whether in person, virtually or by proxy, any actions resulting in votes by the Executive Board or membership, and any discussions regarding actions taken on the Bylaws and Policies and Procedures. Minutes following the election of any new officer shall be prepared within five (5) days.
  - ii. Be custodian of the following documents:
    - a. Minutes, attendance lists, and all attachments of Executive Board and membership meetings;
    - b. Bylaws;
    - c. Policies and Procedures;
    - d. Annual reports as sent to the Wyoming Secretary of State;
    - e. Records of filings to the IRS for amendments to the Bylaws;
    - f. Membership directories (current and historical);
    - g. Liability insurance policy;
    - h. Letter dated March 15, 2006 from the IRS granting 501(c)(3) status;
    - i. Letter from Wyoming Department of Revenue dated October 26, 2015;
    - j. Other documents as directed by the Executive Board;
    - k. Nursery Stock Dealers application and license as obtained from the Wyoming Department of Agriculture;
    - l. Financial Review Findings and Executive Board Responses of each Financial Review; and
    - m. Reports sent to the WMGA.
  - iii. Not be responsible for the records of committees.
  - iv. Keep up-to-date copies of the Bylaws. Maintain records of the transmittal to the membership of proposed amendments of the Bylaws prior to Active Members voting on proposals. This shall include copies of the amendments as proposed, a list of recipients and the date(s) the proposals were provided to the members.
  - v. Provide copies of Executive Board meeting minutes by email to members of the Executive Board, the Laramie County Extension Office and to any Active Member requesting a copy. Copies of minutes of the previous membership meeting shall be provided by email to the Executive Board and to any member requesting a copy two (2) weeks after the membership meeting for the Executive Board's review.
  - vi. Ensure that amendments to Bylaws are filed with the Internal Revenue Service as required.
  - vii. Print or electronically save all emails containing LCMG business sent or received by the members of the Executive Board.
  - viii. Cooperate with and provide two (2) years of records to the Financial Review Committee.

- J. The Treasurer shall:
- i. Provide the Treasurer's reports to the Executive Board at least three (3) days prior to each Executive Board meeting for review;
    - a. The Monthly Treasurer's Report shall be in writing and shall include:
      - I. End-of-previous month's balances and end-of-month balances for each account, including CD and/or investments.
      - II. For each line item in the budget:
        - i. The budgeted amount;
        - ii. The itemized number and nature of expenditure/deposits for the report month;
        - iii. The year-to-date total expenditures against each line item;
        - iv. Total income to date on each applicable line item; and
        - v. end-of-month balances.
      - III. End-of-month totals for encumbered funds and unencumbered funds.
    - b. The Annual Treasurer's Report shall include:
      - I. A summary of each line item or Committee's budget activity for the year;
      - II. A summary of the activity in all LCMG bank accounts for the year; and
      - III. A written check register.
  - ii. Document the reconciliation of each bank statement;
  - iii. Maintain a record of budget status, bank reconciliations, check registers and financial income and expenses;
  - iv. Pay budgeted/approved expenses which have been approved by the committee chair and presented with appropriate documentation, LCMG Reimbursement / Expenditure Forms, and supported by invoices or receipts;
  - v. Document and receipt all incoming funds or donations including cash and in-kind donations;
  - vi. Specify the methods for managing revenues for all events and projects (e.g., locking cash bags);
  - vii. Issue IRS Form 1099 MISC, as required by law, to each payee receiving \$600 or more. Reimbursed expenses should not be included in the total reported, as long as receipts are provided;
  - viii. File annual reports with the Wyoming Secretary of State by July 1 or as required by law, and provide a copy of the report to the Secretary;
  - ix. Annually renew the Nursery Stock Dealers license with the Wyoming Department of Agriculture; and
    - a. Provide a copy to each Executive Board member; and
    - b. Provide a copy of the application for such license to the Secretary.
  - x. Renew the liability insurance policy and provide copies, as requested, to all Executive Board members;
  - xi. Develop and maintain appropriate forms for financial transactions subject to review by the Executive Board. These forms may include, but are not limited to:
    - a. Expenditure Form;
    - b. Reimbursement Form;
    - c. Deposit Form;
    - d. Cash Box Transfer Form;
    - e. General Purpose Form; and
    - f. Compensated Speaker Form.

- xii. Maintain copies of the Findings and Executive Board Responses of each Financial Review.
- xiii. Maintain the original bank statements, initialed by the President, for each month.
- xiv. Cooperate with and provide two (2) years of records to the Financial Review Committee.
- xv. Using information provided by committees on September 1 of each year, the Treasurer shall prepare a complete balanced budget for the following year and present it to the Executive Board for its September meeting.

## 2. COMMITTEES

### A. Each committee:

- i. Shall have a chair (or co-chairs) who is an Active Member. If a chair (or co-chairs) cannot be found, the committee is inactive and the events will not occur. The chair of an active committee:
  - a. Shall submit a brief written or email status report at each Executive Board meeting while the committee is active, at the end of the year, or as requested by the President, stating:
    - I. Committee's budget and a summary of expenditures and revenue;
    - II. Problems and concerns;
    - III. Progress made since last report;
    - IV. Recommendations; and
    - V. A summary of approximate participation by Master Gardeners and/or the public.
  - b. Shall submit a detailed budget estimate to the Treasurer by September 1 for the next calendar year, for review by the Executive Board at its September meeting. The budget estimates must include expenditures and income, if any. If a detailed budget is not submitted by a committee, an amount based on the previous year's amount will be determined by the Executive Board and included in the proposed LCMG budget. Before any expenditure can be made by the committee, the committee chair must present a detailed budget to the Executive Board for approval. These "place holder" amounts will be noted on the final budget presented to the Active Membership for vote.
  - c. Shall obtain a written agreement or acknowledgement from entities that will benefit or partner with LCMG to fulfill the purpose of the committee;
  - d. Shall submit all relevant materials to his/her successor within sixty (60) days of appointment;
  - e. Shall endorse all expenses prior to submission to the Treasurer for payment;
- ii. Should consist of no fewer than three (3) members and/or volunteers, if possible;

Shall comply with Section 11.

- iii. FUNDRAISING of this document;
  - iv. Shall comply with Section 7. BUDGET PROCEDURES of this document; and
  - v. Shall keep expenditures within the approved budget amount.
- B. Committees shall include but not be limited to the following:
- i. Standing Committees are listed in ARTICLE X of the Bylaws, and some are further defined below:

#### a. Financial Review

- I. The Financial Review Committee will conduct examinations of the procedures and financial transactions of LCMG. Such examinations will be conducted in three (3) situations: each January, as directed by

the Executive Board, and upon the election of a new Treasurer. Upon completion of the examinations, written summaries of findings will be given to the Executive Board by the Financial Review Committee.

- II. In conducting the financial examination, the Financial Review Committee shall, at a minimum:
- i. Read the Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, and budget of LCMG.
  - ii. Read the minutes of each Executive Board and membership meeting noting any unusual items and following up on such items. Also note any item that may represent noncompliance with the Bylaws and these Policies and Procedures of the LCMG.
  - iii. Review each of the Treasurer's monthly financial reports. Compare the account balances per the Treasurer's reports to the reconciled monthly bank statements.
  - iv. Review every bank statement for any unusual adjustments or amounts.
  - v. Randomly select 25 canceled checks (two from each month, if possible) and trace to supporting documentation, noting agreement of payee, amount and proper authorization and signatures on the invoices and checks. Trace amounts to proper posting on monthly financial statements.
  - vi. Randomly select 25 invoices (two from each month, if possible) from financial records and trace back to the bank statement, noting agreement of payee, amount and proper authorization and signatures on the invoices and checks. Trace amounts to posting on monthly financial statements for proper recording.
  - vii. Randomly select 12 deposits from bank statement (one from each month, if possible) and trace to supporting documentation, noting agreement of amount and if proper procedures were followed. Trace amounts to proper posting on monthly financial statements.
  - viii. Randomly select 12 deposits from financial records (one from each month, if possible) and trace to bank statement, noting agreement of amount and if proper procedures were followed. Trace amounts to proper posting on monthly financial statements.
  - ix. Review previously filed documents, including Bylaws amendments if applicable, for the fiscal year under examination submitted to the Internal Revenue Service on behalf of LCMG. Compare information submitted to the IRS to the financial records of LCMG for accuracy. Determine if the filing of the annual report with the Wyoming Secretary of State was accomplished by the deadline.
  - x. Determine if the Nursery Stock Dealer's License was timely renewed with the Wyoming Department of Agriculture.
  - xi. Ascertain that the liability insurance policy has been properly renewed.

- xii. Prepare a summary of the findings of the examination of the financial records.
    - xiii. Determine if 1099 MISC forms were sent to any payee receiving \$600 or more.
  - b. Programs - The Programs Committee will plan for educational programs to be presented at membership meetings and other events.
  - c. Public Relations
    - I. The Public Relations Committee manages and helps disseminate information about the LCMG and its events to the public through various media as requested by the Executive Board and committees. Media shall include but not be limited to printed material, radio, TV, website, and social media.
    - II. An officer will serve as chair in the absence of a member volunteer.
    - III. All media, including the LCMG website and social media accounts, that bear the name of LCMG are assets of LCMG and must be managed in accordance with the objective of LCMG (ARTICLE II of LCMG Bylaws).
    - IV. Editorial permissions to LCMG's media assets may be granted to qualified Active Members, as determined by the administrator of the asset, to assist in the dissemination of LCMG news.
- ii. Other committees are listed on LCMG.org and some are further defined below:
  - a. Plant Sale - This Committee will organize and oversee the annual Plant Sale.
  - b. Garden Walk
    - I. The Garden Walk Committee will organize and oversee the Garden Walk.
    - II. Because the Wyoming Department of Revenue (DOR) considers LCMG's Garden Walk to be entertainment and thus subject to Wyoming Sales and Use Tax if admission is charged, the Garden Walk shall be free to the public, as declared by LCMG in a letter dated September 21, 2015 to DOR and per DOR's response dated October 26, 2015, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph of page 3. Donations may be requested to defer the cost of printing pamphlets and advertising. According to the previously referenced correspondence with the DOR, such donations are not subject to sales and use taxation.
- iii. Additional Committees
  - a. Additional committees may be formed as follows:
    - I. A written description of the committee's purpose along with a detailed budget of expected expenses shall be presented to the Executive Board; and
    - II. Formation of the committee and the funding of budgets will be presented to the Active Membership for approval.

### **3. MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY**

- A. The membership directory should include contact information and membership category for each member, the names of LCMG officers and committee chairs, and any other information deemed pertinent to LCMG. This task may be conducted with the assistance of a committee.
- B. The information in the LCMG directory shall only be used for LCMG purposes. The information is not for public distribution and shall not be sold or used for any commercial



venture.

- C. Email is the preferred method for LCMG to communicate with its members in all categories.
  - i. In general, all categories of members will receive emails regarding meeting announcements, fundraiser, educational opportunities, etc., unless the individual requests to not receive emails.
  - ii. Emails regarding email votes will go to Active Members only.

#### **4. WYOMING MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION (WMGA) DELEGATES**

- A. The delegates and alternates shall be reimbursed for actual expenses as verified by receipts. Carpooling is strongly encouraged.
- B. After each WMGA meeting, the delegates shall report at the next LCMG membership meeting.

#### **5. SPEAKER POLICY**

- A. All speakers shall complete and return the Compensated Speaker Form at least two weeks prior to the event if they are to receive any financial compensation for a presentation at an LCMG event. The Compensated Speaker Form becomes the contract between the speaker and LCMG.
- B. Because they are educational events, the speaker series and other speaker events do not require collection and remittance of sales and use tax. (See 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph on page 3 of the DOR letter dated October 26, 2015.)

#### **6. VOTING**

- A. A majority vote of those eligible to vote and present at a meeting shall approve a motion unless otherwise specified in the Bylaws or Policies and Procedures.
- B. Votes shall be by voice or a show of hands, except for the election of officers which shall be by ballot. However, if there is only one candidate for an office, the vote may be by voice. A ballot may be used on other occasions if requested by an Active Member.
- C. Proxy votes can be used by members who are unable to be physically present at a meeting.
  - i. A written authorization, signed by the absent member, must be filed with the Secretary prior to the meeting at which the proxy is to be used.
  - ii. The authorization must list the name of the absent voting member, the proxy holder, and any restrictions placed on the use of the proxy.
- D. The Executive Board may call for an email ballot of the Active Membership without calling a meeting, if a time-sensitive issue arises. As adapted from W.S. 17-19-708:
  - i. The Executive Board must document the motion, second, and vote that is to be forwarded to the membership for email vote.
  - ii. If votes are due in less than 10 days, at least one third (1/3) of the Active Membership must vote by email for the results to be valid (W.S. 17-19-722(d)).
  - iii. Within 48 hours, an email will be sent to the membership that solicits the email votes and shall:
    - a. Set forth the motion;
    - b. Indicate the number of responses needed to meet the quorum requirements;
    - c. State the percentage of approvals necessary to approve the motion;
    - d. Specify the time and date that emails containing votes will be received and counted. The due date/time shall be at least 72 hours after the time the solicitation email was sent;
    - e. Direct the voters to carbon copy their email vote to every Executive Board member; and

- f. Direct the voters to type out their full name on their email vote.
- iv. Two or more officers shall tally the votes and provide the results to the Secretary.
- v. Results shall be reported to the membership as soon as possible via email.
- vi. The Secretary must retain documentation of the votes, including a list of the names of each member who voted, how they voted, and the date and time of their email that contains their vote.

## **7. BUDGET PROCEDURES**

- A. A proposed budget for the upcoming year for each committee or project shall be submitted to the Executive Board, by the chairpersons, annually by September 1<sup>st</sup>.
- B. The Executive Board shall review each committee proposal and shall present a proposed annual budget for the LCMG at the November membership meeting.
- C. Each project's or event's proposed budget shall include:
  - i. A detailed description of the project/event and how it is consistent with LCMG's Objectives,
  - ii. A detailed budget of expenditures and incomes;
  - iii. A time schedule for completion; and
  - iv. A draft of any needed binding agreement.
- D. When preparing the budget for the coming year, discussion by the Executive Board shall include whether or not to place funds in the flex certificate of deposit (CD).
- E. All elected officers will have signature rights to the CD and the checking account.
- F. Any budget amendment or budget for a new project or event shall be presented to the Executive Board for review.
  - i. The Executive Board has the authority to approve expenditures and budget amendments up to \$500. At the next ensuing meeting of the membership, the Executive Board shall report to the membership any such expenditures.
  - ii. If the expenditure exceeds \$500 and passes review of the Executive Board, the Executive Board must present the proposed expenditure to the Active Membership for approval.
  - iii. If the expenditure is time-sensitive, an email ballot or written ballot of the Active Membership will be conducted in accordance with Section 6. VOTING of this document.
- G. A minimum of \$20,000 must be maintained in the LCMG CD at all times, except in cases of emergency. If the CD balance drops below this minimum, the CD must be replenished before any donations are considered.

## **8. BANKING POLICY**

- A. The fiscal year shall be January 1 through December 31.
- B. Within 10 days after the date that any new officer takes office, one of the continuing officers shall deliver to the bank of record a copy of the most recent LCMG meeting minutes indicating the election of new officers and listing the outgoing officers. New officer(s) name(s) shall be placed on the signors' card, and the outgoing officer(s) name(s) shall be removed. All signatures shall be in place within one month of the date that new officers take office.
- C. When LCMG accounts are moved to a new bank, the Treasurer shall set up the new bank account and shall transfer all funds to the new bank. This will be done only after all checks have cleared the current bank account. The address on file with the bank for LCMG will be the post office box of LCMG. In the event that the post office box is closed, the address will be the Laramie County Extension Office. All officers' names will be placed on the signors'

card.

- D. No officer shall be signatory on a check made payable to himself or herself.
- E. Cash Box and Revenue Management:
  - i. Upon receipt of a request for a cash box and/or “square” for credit card transactions from a committee chair, the Treasurer will provide a cash box and/or square. Appropriate forms will be completed.
  - ii. After the event, the committee chair will return the cash box and/or “square” to the Treasurer, and both parties will verify the contents of the cash box.
  - iii. Deposits to the banking accounts shall be made only by the Treasurer or a member of the Executive Board designated by the Treasurer in the event the Treasurer is unable to make a deposit.
  - iv. The Treasurer will be responsible for tracking the credit card transactions and recording them appropriately.
  - v. In the case of a large event, such as the Plant Sale, the Treasurer will work closely with the committee chair and the Executive Board to ensure that a written plan for managing financial transactions is available for use and review.
- F. Check Cashing Policy:
  - i. Checks issued by LCMG and not cashed within 90 days may be subject to stop payment at the discretion of the Executive Board. Reimbursement after payment has been stopped will be the amount of the check(s) minus the stop payment fee(s).
  - ii. All checks that are voided shall be kept with the checkbook until the Financial Review is completed.

## **9. RECORDS RETENTION POLICY**

- A. The Treasurer and Secretary shall maintain at least three years of records. Records older than three years shall be stored in a secure location. (W.S. 17-19-1601)

## **10. SCHOLARSHIPS**

In an effort to promote and further education in the area of horticulture, a scholarship or grant of up to \$100 per Active Member per calendar year may be awarded by the Executive Board.

- A. The Scholarship may be awarded for any valid horticulture event requiring tuition, travel, or overnight expenses as approved by the Executive Board.
- B. The Executive Board shall:
  - i. Review the request with at least three (3) members of the Executive Board;
  - ii. Make a decision within 48 hours of the request if possible; and
  - iii. Reimburse the Active Member after the member has completed the requirements listed on the Scholarship Application Form.
- C. The Active Member shall:
  - i. Submit the Scholarship Application Form to the Executive Board prior to the event;
  - ii. Be able to show proof of the event, date, location, and registration as described on the Scholarship Application Form; and
  - iii. Present an overview of the event, if requested by the Executive Board.

## **11. FUNDRAISING**

- A. The Wyoming Department of Revenue (DOR) allows charitable organizations up to four (4) fundraising events per calendar year (“the occasional sales limit”) without collecting sales and use tax. The DOR defines LCMG’s fundraisers as follows (see top of page 3 of the DOR letter dated October 26, 2015):

- i. Spring Fundraiser (soil, gloves, roses, etc.);
  - ii. Plant Sale;
  - iii. Fall Fundraiser (bulbs, soil, etc.); and
  - iv. A fourth fundraising event, if needed.
- B. Fundraisers shall make at least 15% over and above all costs.
- C. All of LCMG's sales must be fundraisers and must be open to the public. No one is excluded. At a minimum, every sale shall be posted on the LCMG.org website.
- D. LCMG has a Revenue Identification Number (RID) as written near the top of DOR's letter dated October 26, 2015.
- E. Every fundraiser chair shall submit a final report.

## **12. REIMBURSEMENTS**

- A. Reimbursement for a purchase shall be made only with submittal of the appropriate form and supporting documents which may include receipts, invoices, and other documentation.
- B. Reimbursement for using a private vehicle shall be made with submittal of the appropriate form and submittal of either:
  - i. Two receipts for filling of fuel tank both prior to and immediately after the trip. Reimbursement shall equal the value on the second receipt; or
  - ii. Map mileage from point A to point B (e.g., no side trips) based on MapQuest or Google Maps. Mileage will be reimbursed at the current GSA rate.

## **13. REVIEW AND REVISION OF THESE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

- A. These Policies and Procedures will be reviewed at least every two (2) years.
- B. Additional revisions may be made to these Policies and Procedures on an as-needed basis using this sequence:
  - i. Identification of the needed change;
  - ii. Referral by the Executive Board to the Bylaws Committee;
  - iii. Review by the Bylaws Committee and recommendation to the membership; and
  - iv. Vote of the Active Membership with 30 days' notice.

Approved by the LCMG membership on February 20, 2014

Updates approved by the LCMG membership on November 17, 2016

Updates approved by the LCMG membership on September 20, 2018

Updates approved by the LCMG membership on September 19, 2019

Updates approved by the LCMG Active Membership on April 21, 2022