

# **STANDING RULES**



**National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
4401 Magnolia Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63110-3492**

**Justified June 2025**

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## **CHECK RELATED CATEGORIES UNDER BYLAWS**

### **STANDING RULES OF NGC**

These Standing Rules shall not be in conflict with the NGC Bylaws and may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the NGC Board of Directors by a two-thirds vote or a majority vote with previous notice.

### **AFFILIATES**

1. National Affiliate clubs or organizations of NGC shall pay dues of \$30.00, and International Affiliate clubs or organizations of NGC shall pay dues of \$35.00 that shall accompany the membership application. Thereafter dues of the like amount shall be paid annually to NGC Headquarters for the fiscal year June 1 to May 31. An individual group or organization may pay dues for an affiliate.
2. Certificates are available annually for National and International Affiliates.
  - a. National Affiliates: May be awarded for an outstanding horticultural exhibit at a show held in conjunction with an annual meeting of the organization. The Affiliate should apply by sending copy of the schedule to the NGC National Affiliates Chairman three months prior to the presentation of the award.
  - b. International Affiliates: A certificate may be awarded for the most outstanding exhibit in a Standard Flower or Home and Garden Show sponsored by an International Affiliate or may be used in recognition of other gardening endeavors if such use has been approved by the Affiliate Board and NGC International Affiliates Chairman. Request should be sent as far in advance as possible to the International Affiliates Chairman or to the National Garden Clubs, Inc., 4401 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63110, U.S.A.
3. Certificates may be given to members of International Affiliates in recognition of attendance at NGC Flower Show Schools or symposiums.

### **ALLIANCES**

An agreement with like-missioned organizations which will benefit both organizations. A liaison may be assigned to an alliance. Liaisons are not Board of Directors Members unless they serve on the board in a different position. (FBM 2022)

### **AWARDS**

1. State Garden Clubs and Affiliate Member Organizations failing to remit NGC dues by October 31 shall be excluded from all NGC Awards.
2. Awards and awards rules shall be published on the NGC website.

3.
  - a. NGC Awards shall be presented if merited, with no limitation on the number won by any State in the award year.
  - b. NGC Awards and Special Awards shall be based on the January 1 - December 31 calendar year.
  - c. The NGC Chairman may secure any NGC Chairman to judge Award applications relating to that NGC Chairman's Committee.
  - d. All presentation of NGC Awards come under the responsibility of the NGC Awards Chairman as directed by the NGC President.
  - e. Proposed awards and/or award changes shall be presented to the Awards Committee for review, refinement and recommendation to the Executive Committee and to the Board of Directors for approval; and, if adopted, published in *The National Gardener*.
  - f. NGC Awards shall have the same deadline; same award rules and are handled by the NGC Awards Chairman. Exceptions shall be submitted by the NGC Awards Chairman to the incoming Executive Committee for approval prior to the Post-Convention Board of Directors' Meeting. Special Awards shall be listed in the Fall issue of *The National Gardener* in the odd-numbered year and the donor acknowledged.
4. Award of Excellence:
  - a. Applications with supporting evidence shall be sent to the NGC Award of Excellence Chairman, a Vice-President, designated by the President, who, with a committee from the Executive Committee, shall select the NGC Award of Excellence winners for approval at the Winter Executive Committee Meeting.
  - b. All Awards of Excellence are presented at the NGC Convention.
  - c. Award of Excellence for Non-Members is NGC's highest award presented to a non-member of NGC and sponsored by a State Garden Club. (FBM 2021)
    - 1) A maximum of three NGC Awards of Excellence for Non-Members may be awarded per year.
    - 2) The recipients must accept the award in person, except as excused by the Executive Committee.
    - 3) State Garden Club may sponsor one applicant per year.

- d. Award of Excellence for State Garden Clubs is presented to a State Garden Club for an outstanding project. (FBM 2021)
  - 1) A maximum of four NGC Awards of Excellence may be awarded per year.
  - 2) A monetary award of \$500 will be given to the winner from each membership division.
  - 3) Presidents of the State Garden Clubs whose applicant receives the Award of Excellence at the NGC Convention shall be recognized at the time of presentation.
- e. Award of Excellence for Regions is presented in the odd-numbered year for distinguished coordinated activity within the Region. (FBM 2021)
  - 1) One may be awarded per administration.
  - 2) Monetary award of \$500 will be given to the winner.
- 5. The NGC Awards Chairman shall request the donor to send check to the Awards Chairman, payable to NGC by July 1. Donors shall be apprised of the name and address of the winner. An NGC check and the name and address of the donor shall be attached to the NGC Certificate presented at the NGC Convention.
- 6. Each participating club may receive a rosette for Flower Show Awards. (FBM 2021)
- 7. Meritorious Certificates, such as Therapy, Radio-TV and others of that nature may be presented at the Convention of the Region.
- 8. Woodsy Owl and Smokey Bear Poster Awards may be presented at the NGC Convention.
- 9. Certificates shall be given to members who have served on the NGC Board of Directors for 25 years, not necessary to be concurrent.

## **BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKERS**

The Blue Star Memorial Marker of NGC honors men and women who are serving or have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

- 1. Blue Star Memorial Highway Markers are permitted in roadside parks and other sites agreeable to and in cooperation with State Highway Departments, and the Federal Bureau of Public Roads, and the American Association of State Highway Officials.
- 2. Blue Star Memorial Markers are permitted on the grounds of National Cemeteries, Veterans Administration Medical Centers and any other appropriate civic location. The civic location request must be reviewed, and approved, by the NGC Blue Star Memorial Chairman.

3. Blue Star By-Way Memorial Markers are smaller than the other Markers and are erected on secondary roads or areas needing beautification.
4. NGC expanded the Blue Star Memorial Markers Program to allow Gold Star families under the direction of the NGC Blue Star Memorial Markers Program to sponsor, fund and place Markers bearing a Gold Star; the word “Blue” will be changed to “Gold” where applicable; and the tribute wording will read: *A tribute to Gold Star families who have lost a loved one defending the United States of America.*

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

1. No member of the Board of Directors may receive remuneration for services rendered to NGC. (FBM 2021)
2. Reimbursement for expenses up to the amount in the adopted budget may be submitted. (FBM 2021)
3. No member of the Board of Directors or the Headquarters staff shall consult the NGC attorney without prior approval of the President or the Executive Committee.
4. No paid employee of NGC shall be a member of the Board of Directors.
5. Motions shall be in writing and presented to the President, Recording Secretary and Parliamentarian.
6. A chairman should be consulted and be present, if possible, when any changes in that chairmanship are being proposed and shall be permitted to present any ideas to the Executive Committee in person.
7. The Youth Activities Committee shall be notified before contests, promotions and similar activities involving youth are initiated.
8. Members of the Board of Directors shall receive a copy of the minutes following the Fall Board Meeting and the NGC Convention. Minutes of meetings shall be distributed by Headquarters by electronic device. Hard copy available from Headquarters by request only.
9. Written information distributed by any member of the Board of Directors of NGC must be signed and dated. All E-mails with information sent by members of the Board of Directors must have NGC in the subject line.
10. Members of the Board of Directors are required to attend all meetings of the Board of Directors and NGC Conventions and shall notify the President of any unavoidable absence.
11. Directors of NGC designated geographic regions shall be elected by the governing board of their State Garden Club in session during the even-numbered year prior to assuming

office and be presented to the NGC Convention in the odd-numbered year according to the following state rotation effective with the 2019 administration.

**NEW ENGLAND REGION**

Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont

**CENTRAL ATLANTIC REGION**

Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, New York, New Jersey, National Capital Area, Delaware

**SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION**

West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, South Carolina, North Carolina

**DEEP SOUTH REGION**

Louisiana, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama

**CENTRAL REGION**

Indiana, Missouri, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa

**SOUTH CENTRAL REGION**

Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, New Mexico

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION**

Utah, Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Kansas

**PACIFIC REGION**

California, Hawaii, Washington, Idaho, Alaska, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon

## **ELECTRONIC MEETINGS**

There are three procedural types of electronic meetings.

1. Electronic Meetings using Full-Featured Internet Service.
2. Electronic Meetings using Teleconference with Internet Voting and Document Sharing.
3. Electronic Meetings using Telephone Meeting without Internet Support.

Guidelines are located in an addendum.

## **EMBLEM**

Original copy of official communications shall be on NGC stationery which bears the official emblem.

## **E-MEMBER AT LARGE MEMBERSHIP**

E-Members at Large shall pay annual dues of \$35.

## **ENDORSEMENT**

NGC shall be extremely cautious about endorsing any product.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL**

1. The current edition of the Schools Handbook is the authority and is available on the website. The concept for a new Schools Handbook shall be approved by the Executive Committee. New Schools Handbooks shall be reviewed by the Print Committee and the ES and approved by the Executive Committee. (FBM 2021)

2. Changes in ES policies and procedures, recommended by the ES Committee, shall be approved by the Executive Committee. Changes are published on the website. (FBM 2021)
3. Changes in the NGC Schools Handbook recommended by the Schools Policy Committee to the Executive Committee and approved by the Executive Committee shall become effective July 1 annually. Changes are published on the NGC website. (FBM 2021)
4. The fee for Environmental School Courses is \$5.00 per course for those taking the course for credit.

## **FINANCE**

1. Recommendations involving expenditure of NGC funds **MUST** be sent to the Finance Chairman at least 15 days prior to the meeting of that Committee.
2. Bids involving business contracts shall be secured by the Executive Director.
3. The Director of PH&E Trustees shall submit contracts to the Executive Committee for approval with the exception of routine maintenance contracts which are signed by the Executive Director.
4. Contracts involving income and expenditures shall be duplicated and copies supplied to members of the PH&E Trustees and to the Finance Committee, if requested.
5. The Treasurer and the Accountant shall reconcile the accounts prior to releasing any financial statement.
6. Members of the Board of Directors shall receive a copy of the year-end financial report fifteen (15) days prior to the Fall Board Meeting. The report shall be distributed by Headquarters by electronic device. Hard copy available from Headquarters by request only.
7.
  - a. The auditor's report shall be furnished to members of the Executive Committee, Finance Committee and Permanent Home and Endowment Trustees.
  - b. A copy of the Audit shall be made available by electronic device or postal mail to any NGC member upon written request and receipt of the cost of reproduction and mailing.
8. The proposed Annual Budget is presented for approval at the Winter Executive Committee Meeting after being approved by the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee and the Executive Committee must approve any subsequent amendments to the budget after the Winter Executive Committee Meeting. The Board of Directors approves the budget at the Pre-Convention Board Meeting with adoption by the NGC Convention delegates.



- a. The budget of the Scholarship Chairman shall be charged to the Scholarship Fund.
  - b. The Finance Committee shall determine annually the number and amount of scholarships to be awarded.
  - c. The budget of the Calendar Chairman and Committee shall be charged to Member Services.
9. NGC funds are to be reserved to meet the yearly expenses and budget and are not to be used for donations to other organizations.
10. NGC Projects
- a. Project Chairmen shall present to the Finance Committee: a budget for approval, a yearly financial report and a final financial report at the completion of the project. Exceptions shall have the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Executive Committee and the approval of the Board of Directors.
  - b. All donations to NGC Projects, including one-time special projects, shall be sent by the donor to NGC Headquarters, not to the Committee. Funds donated to Natural Disasters USA, and World Gardening may be restricted by the donor for specific causes.
  - c. NGC Headquarters shall send a list of donations to the appropriate chairman monthly or more often if requested by the chairman.
  - d. For one-time special projects, an accounting and recognitions shall be given to State Garden Clubs. Upon completion of this NGC project, any funds remaining in the project may be reallocated subject to approval by the NGC Board of Directors.
  - e. The Chairman of any project, whose recipient of funds may vary per administration, will report to the Executive Committee at least once each year with recommendations as to the disbursement of funds, to be approved or ratified by the Board of Directors.
11. NGC budgets for lodging, transportation and registration expenses for the President to travel as NGC's official representative. Expenses for the Vice Presidents' or the Executive Director's travel as the NGC president's official representative shall be covered by the NGC President's travel budget. (FBM 2024)

## **FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS, SYMPOSIUMS AND JUDGES**

- 1. The current editions of the *Handbook for Flower Shows (2017)*, *The Flower Show Schools Manual* and *The Instructors Manual* are the authorities for Standard Flower Shows, exhibitors, top awards, Flower Show Schools, Symposiums, FSS Instructors and Judges and are available from Member Services. The concept for a new Handbook shall

be approved by the Executive Committee. Any new Handbook shall be reviewed by the Print Committee and the FSS Committee and approved by the Executive Committee. (FBM 2021)

2. Changes of Flower Show School policies and procedures, recommended by the FSS Committee and approved by the Executive shall become effective July 1 annually. Changes are published on the NGC Website. (May 2023)
3. Changes in the NGC Schools Handbook recommended by the Schools Policy Committee to the Executive Committee and approved by the Executive Committee shall become effective July 1 annually. Changes are published on the NGC website. (FBM 2021)
4. The host of the Flower Show Schools Instructors' Symposium may, upon written request to the Treasurer, addressed to Headquarters, secure an advance of \$3,000 from the Flower Show Instructor's Fund. This advance is available one year prior to the symposium and shall be returned as soon as registrations permit.
5. The fee for Flower Show School, Symposium, and Handbook Exam to become an Accredited Judge is \$5.00 per course/Handbook Exam.
6. Flower Show Judges' and Master Judges' pins are available from Member Services.

## **FORMER PRESIDENTS**

1. NGC honors each outgoing President by placing the name on the President's Plaque in Kellogg Hall at Headquarters.
2. The outgoing President shall be presented a former President's Pin at the expiration of each administration as a gift from NGC.
3. An NGC Citation will be presented to the outgoing President on Awards Night or at an agreed time during the NGC Convention.

## **FUNDS AND INVESTMENTS**

1. Surplus funds from NGC Conventions and the Fall Board Meetings in the even-numbered years shall be placed in the NGC Endowment Fund.
2. A complete financial report for all grants or funds from industry or corporations for promotion of NGC programs shall be directed to the Treasurer with substantiating vouchers and to the President annually by the NGC Chairman. The NGC Chairman shall present a financial report to the donor annually and more frequently, if requested.
3. So that duplicate requests or grants can be avoided, any NGC Chairman must request permission from the President to solicit a grant from a major corporation, along with a proposal for use of the grant which shall include a budget. The President may refer this request to the appropriate committee(s) for review.

4. It is the responsibility of the Finance Committee and Permanent Home and Endowment Trustees to establish guidelines for the investment of the Funds and Investments of NGC. Such guidelines may include the engagement of professional Investment Managers to assist in the discharge of this responsibility. NGC Funds and Investments include two major classifications of net assets: net assets with donor restrictions and net assets without donor restrictions. (FBM 2021)

Net Assets with Donor Restrictions--net assets with donor restrictions are subject to donor-imposed restrictions. Some donor-imposed restrictions are temporary in nature, such as those that will be met by the passage of time or other events specified by the donor. Other donor-imposed restrictions are perpetual in nature, where the donor stipulates that the resources be maintained in perpetuity. (FBM 2021)

Net Assets without Donor Restrictions—The NGC Board-designated Fund is a board-designated quasi-endowment fund established by NGC for the purpose of accepting and administering unrestricted charitable gifts and bequests from NGC members that the board determines will become a source for long-term support of the various NGC programs and operations, as set forth in NGC's formal budget formation and approval process each year. (FBM 2021)

5. The Budget Committee shall determine the available funds for the succeeding year from the quasi-endowment fund of cash and investments, not to exceed 10% based on the average of the past three years as of May 31. (June 2024)
6. The investment portfolio of each fund may be invested up to 60% in equities. (FBM 2021)

## **GARDENING SCHOOLS**

1. The current edition of the Schools Handbook is available on the website. The concept for a new Schools Handbook shall be approved by the Executive Committee. New Schools Handbooks shall be reviewed by the Print Committee, the GS Committee and approved by the Executive Committee. (FBM 2021)
2. Changes in GS policies and procedures, recommended by the GS Committee, shall be approved by the Executive Committee. Changes are published on the NGC website. (FBM 2021)
3. Changes in the NGC Schools Handbook recommended by the Schools Policy Committee to the Executive Committee and approved by the Executive Committee shall become effective July 1 annually. Changes are published on the NGC website. (FBM 2021)
4. Gardening Consultant pins are available from Member Services.
5. The fee for Gardening Schools is \$5.00 per course for those taking the course for credit.

## **GOLDEN CIRCLE**

A commendation for 25 years or more of active service on NGC Board of Directors. The honorees' names are to be inscribed on an Honor Roll to be kept at NGC Headquarters and titled Golden Circle Honorees. Honorees' names are posted on the NGC website. Those who are eligible must submit the Golden Circle application which is available on the NGC website. Golden Circle Honorees may attend NGC Board of Directors' meetings. Golden Circle Honorees are not members of the Board of Directors unless they continue to serve on the NGC Board of Directors in another capacity. (FBM 2021)

## **HEADQUARTERS -- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

1. The NGC Headquarters shall not be open on Saturdays and Sundays unless authorized by the NGC President or the Permanent Home and Endowment Trustees Director.
2. NGC shall not release its contact information database to any third-party individual, government agency, or company at any time, unless compelled to do so by law. (May 2023)
3. The *Headquarters Manual* shall be the authorized procedure for the operations of NGC Headquarters, except as otherwise provided in the Bylaws and Standing Rules.
4. The "1983 National Garden Club Headquarters Gift List" will be a permanent issue, and a list of gift additions will be printed at the close of each administration. This list will be available to any Board member upon request.
5. The official copies of the minutes signed by the NGC Recording Secretary and the NGC President are on file at Headquarters.
6. All correspondence shall be sent electronically.
7. Minutes of Meetings shall be distributed by Headquarters by electronic device as follows. Hard copy available from Headquarters by request only.

### **PH&E TRUSTEES:**

Trustees and ex-officio members, the Parliamentarian and the Executive Director.

### **FINANCE:**

Committee and ex-officio Committee Members, the Parliamentarian and the Executive Director.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

Committee members and the Executive Director.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Members of the Board of Directors and the Executive Director.

### **CONVENTION:**

Members of the Board of Directors, and the Executive Director.

### **ORGANIZATION STUDY:**

Committee and ex-officio members, the Parliamentarian and the Executive Director.

8. No official records shall be taken from Headquarters without written consent of the NGC President, and when only one copy exists, a copy shall be made and given to the individual. One copy of printed material shall always be in the files at Headquarters and only duplications are to be removed.
9. Free material requested from Headquarters shall be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped # 10 envelope.
10. The Executive Director position shall be filled from a list of qualified candidates vetted by a professional employment service determined by the PH&E Director. (June 2024)
11. An employment contract shall be drafted by NGC Legal Counsel and shall be signed by the PH&E Director and the Executive Director. (June 2024)

### **LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS**

1. The current edition of the Schools Handbook is the authority and is available on the website. The concept for a new Schools Handbook shall be approved by the Executive Committee. New Schools Handbooks shall be reviewed by the Print Committee and the LDS and approved by the Executive Committee. (FBM 2021)
2. Changes in LDS policies and procedures, recommended by the LDS Committee, shall be approved by the Executive Committee. Changes are published on the NGC website. (FBM 2021)
3. Changes in the NGC Schools Handbook recommended by the Schools Policy Committee to the Executive Committee and approved by the Executive Committee shall become effective July 1 annually. Changes are published on the NGC website. (FBM 2021)
4. Landscape Design Consultants pins are available from Member Services.
5. The fee for Landscape Design Schools is \$5.00 per course for those taking the course for credit.

### **MEETINGS AND NGC-SPONSORED EVENTS**

#### **Conventions, Fall Board Meetings, Executive Committee Meetings**

1. *NGC Convention Procedure Manual*, *NGC Fall Board Meeting Procedure Manual*, and *Procedures for the Planning and Executing of the Winter Executive Committee Meeting* shall serve as guides and be available upon request or downloaded from the NGC website.

2. The **CALL** to the NGC Convention shall be published in the Winter issue of *The National Gardener* and is **THE OFFICIAL CALL TO THE NGC CONVENTION**.
3. NGC funds and facilitates the planning of all NGC Sponsored Events including Conventions and Fall Board Meetings. (May 2022)
4. An International Affiliate member who is a featured speaker at the NGC Convention is provided room and meals for one night and two days. This expense is a part of the NGC Convention budget.
5. There shall be no parties/functions for candidates for NGC Office at Conventions or Fall Board Meetings.
6. NGC Convention Chairman and Vice-Chairmen
  - a. The NGC Convention Chairman and Vice-Chairmen, no more than two, are ratified by the Board of Directors two years prior to the year of the NGC Convention they chair. A State Garden Club should determine its NGC Convention Chairman and Vice- Chairmen at least four years prior to hosting the NGC Convention.
  - b. The Chairman and Vice-Chairmen shall be listed as members of the Board of Directors following ratification by the Board.
  - c. The NGC Convention Chairman shall present a preliminary report of the NGC Convention at the Fall Board Meeting that follows immediately after that NGC Convention. A final Convention report shall be presented at the Board of Directors' Meeting at the next NGC Convention.
  - d. Following the final Convention report, the names of the NGC Convention Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen shall be deleted from the roster and will no longer be members of the Board of Directors in that capacity.
7. NGC Fall Board Meeting Chairman and Vice-Chairman
  - a. The Fall Board Meeting Chairman and Vice-Chairman are ratified by the Board of Directors two years prior to the meeting they chair.
  - b. The Fall Board Meeting Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be listed as members of the Board of Directors following ratification by the Board.
  - c. There may be two Vice-Chairmen for the Fall Board Meeting in the odd-numbered years which are held in St. Louis and hosted by a District or another garden club entity.

- d. The Fall Board Meeting Chairman shall present a final report at the Board of Directors meeting of the next NGC Convention.
  - e. The names of the Fall Board Meeting Chairman and Vice-Chairman (Vice-Chairmen) will be deleted from the roster following that meeting and will no longer serve as members of the Board of Directors in that capacity.
- 8. All financial activity for NGC Conventions, Fall Board Meetings, Winter Executive Committee Meetings will be included in NGC's year-end financial statements, audit and Federal 990 tax return. A separate audit or review of these meetings is not required.
- 9. NGC Conventions, Fall Board Meetings and Winter Executive Committee Meetings will use a checking account established by the NGC accountant, St. Louis, MO. with the NGC Federal Tax ID Number. Financial operations will be managed by NGC headquarters.
- 10. Contracts for meetings shall be signed by the President or by a person authorized to sign the contract in a corporate resolution issued by the President. The resolution should be only for a specific event. (FBM 2022)
- 11. NGC may contract with for-profit companies to promote their products at conventions and meetings. These organizations may or may not be NGC official sponsors. The companies will be charged the same rental fee as the vendors. NGC retains the right to deny space to any entity that contradicts NGC's mission. (June 2024)
- 12. A budget for the meeting shall be submitted to the Finance Committee, the Executive Committee, and the Board of Directors for approval at their regularly scheduled meetings preceding the event.
- 13. A preliminary convention financial report should be presented to the Board of Directors at the Fall Board meeting following the convention. The final convention financial report is due to NGC Headquarters and the Finance Committee Chairman by the Finance Committee Meeting of the following NGC Convention. The final Fall Board Meeting financial report is due to NGC Headquarters and the Finance Committee Chairman by the next Finance Committee meeting after the Fall Board Meeting.
  - a. Supporting bills/invoices and receipts for all checks should be sent to NGC Headquarters by either hard copy or electronic scan.
  - b. After acceptance of the final financial report by the NGC Finance Committee, excess funds shall be distributed by Headquarters to the Endowment Fund. (May 2022)
- 14. Any excess over expenses from the Fall Board Meeting or Convention shall be distributed to the Endowment Fund. (May 2022)

15. The NGC President shall notify the State Garden Club hosting the NGC Convention and the Fall Board Meeting in the election year if not held in St. Louis, how its State Garden Club can be recognized at the Headquarters.
16. The following items should be sent to NGC Headquarters: NGC Convention/Fall Board Meeting Report form, final financial report, bills and receipts.
17. At the NGC Convention, the State Garden Club President serving with the current NGC President, if attending the meeting, gives the State Garden Club President's report and accepts the awards for that State at the Awards Banquet. Each State Garden Club President is entitled to represent that State Garden Club at two consecutive NGC Conventions. Exception: The Hawaii Federation of Garden Clubs may alternate the office of State President between the islands of Maui and Oahu in one administration.
18. When a State Garden Club's election occurs following the NGC Convention, the nominee for President should attend the Presidents' Breakfast with the incumbent.
19. The Winter Executive Committee Meetings may be held at Headquarters or at a time and place determined by the President.
20. Invitations to host an NGC Convention or the Fall Board Meeting in the even-numbered year, and in the election year if hosted by a State Garden Club rather than in St. Louis, having been approved by the governing board of a State Garden Club, shall be submitted to the Convention Coordinator at least four years prior to that NGC Convention.
21. Invitations to host NGC Conventions, Fall Board Meetings, and Winter Executive Committee Meetings shall be limited to State Garden Clubs.
22. An event planner may be contracted to manage an NGC Sponsored Event, Fall Board Meeting or Convention. (May 2022)
23. The Fall Board Meeting shall be held no earlier than the third week in September and no later than the second week in October.

## **MEMBER SERVICES**

1. Items for sale by Member Services are listed on the NGC website. (May 2022)
2. Member Services shall provide current and future FSS Handbooks, printed and digital; all NGC publications, flower show award ribbons, rosettes, seals, convention ribbons, badges, and other items as approved. (May 2022)
3. Calendars remaining in inventory each year shall be written off on December 31. (May 2022)

## **MEMORIALS**



Memorial donations may be sent to NGC Headquarters and the name of the person memorialized entered in the Book of Remembrance. Memorial donations will be placed in the Permanent Home unless otherwise designated by the donor.

## **NATIONAL CHAIRMEN, STATE PRESIDENTS**

1. It is strongly suggested that service on any NGC Committee in any capacity (except ex officio) be limited to no more than two Committees.
2. An NGC Director's pin shall be available in gold finish from Member Services. All prior and current members of the Board of Directors are eligible to purchase and wear that pin. A wreath on the pin denotes former or current Executive Committee members.
3. A Life Membership pin shall be available from Member Services.
4. NGC stationery shall be available for Chairmen and Officers in limited quantity from Headquarters. Amounts over limitations must be paid out of Chairman's budget.
5. Region Directors shall report at the NGC Convention at the discretion of the President.
6. At least three weeks prior to Executive Committee Meetings, recommendations from NGC Chairmen must be sent to the President with a copy to the Corresponding Secretary and Parliamentarian. (May 2023)
7. A copy of the **BYLAWS** and **STANDING RULES** shall be available on the NGC Website, Members section.

## **NGC PRESIDENT, HOSPITALITY**

At the close of the fiscal year in odd-numbered years, the balance of unexpended funds for the NGC President shall be placed in the budget for the following year, under the allocation "NGC President's Expenses for Prior Year".

## **NGC SPONSORED EVENTS**

1. All financial activity for NGC-sponsored events will be included in NGC's year-end financial statements, audit and Federal 990 tax return. A separate audit or review of these meetings is not required.
2. NGC-sponsored events will use a checking account established by the NGC accountant, St. Louis, MO. with NGC's Federal Tax ID number. Financial operations will be managed by NGC headquarters.
3. Contracts for NGC meetings shall be signed either by the NGC President or by a person authorized to sign the contract in a corporate resolution issued by the NGC President. The resolution should be only for a specific event.
4. A budget for the meeting shall be submitted to the Finance Committee by the Chairman for approval at its regularly scheduled meetings preceding the event.
5.
  - a. The final financial report is due by the next Finance Committee Meeting after the meeting or NGC-sponsored event to Headquarters and the Finance Committee Chairman.

- b. Supporting bills/invoices and receipts for all checks should be sent to NGC Headquarters by either hard copy or electronic scan.
- c. After receipt, review and acceptance of the financial documentation and final report of the event, the NGC Accounting Staff will notify the Event Chairman that excess funds can be distributed to the host or recipient as have been prearranged.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

1. STATE ROTATION – effective 2019
  - a. **NEW ENGLAND REGION**
  - b. Connecticut, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, Vermont
  - c. **CENTRAL ATLANTIC REGION**
  - d. Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York, Ohio, Maryland, New Jersey, National Capital Area
  - e. **SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION**
  - f. North Carolina, Kentucky, South Carolina, West Virginia, Virginia
  - g. **DEEP SOUTH REGION**
  - h. Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Florida, Georgia
  - i. **CENTRAL REGION**
  - j. Indiana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri
  - k. **SOUTH CENTRAL REGION**
  - l. Texas, Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma
  - m. **ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION**
  - n. Utah, North Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota, Kansas
  - o. **PACIFIC REGION**
  - p. Alaska, Oregon, Arizona, Hawaii, California, Idaho, Washington, Nevada
2. Members from each Region shall be elected by the governing board of the state garden club and sent to the current Nominating Committee Chairman, President-Elect, and the NGC Headquarters no later than August 1 in the even-numbered year. (June 2024)
3. In the election of the Nominating Committee Chairman, consideration shall be given to a region other than that of the retiring Chairman. (June 2024)
4. A member who fails to attend any meeting, unless excused by the Nominating Committee Chairman and the NGC President due to an unavoidable absence, will be considered as having resigned from the Committee. The state president of the person causing the vacancy shall appoint a replacement. (June 2024)
5. A candidate must have the official endorsement of the State Garden Club governing body, signed and dated by the State President. The Official Endorsement Form, designating the name of the governing body and the date of the endorsing action, shall be sent directly to the NGC Nominating Committee Chairman. A one-page Resume Form of the candidate's related qualifications and experience shall be sent by the candidate to the NGC Nominating Committee Chairman. A maximum of three one-page letters of recommendation, requested by the candidate, shall be sent directly to the NGC Nominating Committee Chairman. Upon receipt of this material, the Nominating

Committee Chairman shall send copies to the members of the Committee for the study of the candidate's qualifications. A recent photograph of the candidate shall be included.

6. All officer candidate applications and letters of recommendation for that candidate shall be received by the NGC Nominating Committee Chairman by April 20 in even-numbered years. If no application is received for an office, then the deadline for application and recommendation shall be extended until June 15 for that office only. The NGC Nominating Committee Chairman shall promptly notify, in writing, each applicant that the application has been received. (May 2022)
7. The Nominating Committee shall report the number of endorsed candidate applications received, per office, at the Pre-Convention Board of Directors Meeting in the even-numbered years. (FBM 2022)
8. Candidates for NGC Office shall be notified by the Committee of its decision on the day of its deliberation.
9. The slate of the Nominating Committee shall be completed and announced at the Fall Board Meeting in even-numbered years.

## **PERMANENT HOME AND ENDOWMENT TRUSTEES**

1. A gift, except money and securities, for the Permanent Home requires the approval of the PH&E Trustees before acceptance.
2. Funds contributed for any piece of furniture will be credited to the donor's State Garden Club. Appropriate markers are used when feasible.
3. Securities (stocks and bonds) are most acceptable gifts. Gift payments may be made in installments, but no credit is given until final payment.
4. Unless otherwise specified by the donor, bequests to NGC will be listed as miscellaneous contributions rather than being credited to any one State Garden Club.
5. Permanent Home contributions of \$50 or more will be acknowledged by a Certificate, suitable for framing, with name of honoree and donor. The donor may request Headquarters to send the Certificate to the donor or to the honoree.
6. A card acknowledging any memorial gift carries the name of the person honored and donor and is sent from Headquarters to the family. A receipt is sent to the donor.
7. STEWARDS OF TOMORROW:
  - a. A contribution of \$5,000 or more is recognized by an individual nameplate 12" x 18"
  - b. A contribution of \$2,000 (or contribution of \$2,000 to \$4,999) is recognized by an individual nameplate 5 1/2" x 18" applied on the adjoining brick columns.

## 8. HONOR BOOKS

The Honor Books provide a means of honoring anyone or a means of providing a memorial to anyone. Names of honoree and donor will be inscribed in the relevant book. Listed as follows: the name of each Honor Book, first or second edition, the minimum amount of donation, the recording format, and the broad category for that Honor Book.

- a. *THE BOOK OF APPRECIATION*, second edition, \$50.00, to honor anyone who has given support to NGC. (Computer generated).
  - b. *THE BOOK OF CLUB PRESIDENTS*, second edition, \$100.00, to honor any club President. (Computer generated).
  - c. *THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE*, second edition, \$100.00, to honor the memory of anyone. (Computer generated).
  - d. *THE ROLL OF HONOR BOOK*, first and continued edition, \$200.00, in calligraphy to provide great honor to anyone.
9. Regular maintenance and routine repairs of Headquarters shall be charged to the Permanent Home and Endowment Fund; Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Account. Installation, replacement or improvement costs which increase the value of Headquarters property are capital expense.
10. Approval of Executive Committee must be secured for disbursements not covered by the budget in excess of \$5,000.00.

## PUBLICATIONS

1. The policy for publications is as follows: Before proceeding with any new publication or update, the concept shall first be considered by the Executive Committee. If accepted, submission for acceptance of the content should follow. The accepted publication or update shall be approved by the Executive Committee. (FBM 2021)
2. The Publications-Print Chairman shall review publications prior to publication. (FBM 2021)
3. The Publications-Print Chairman shall review NGC publications prior to publication, except those for which the President appoints a special committee. The President shall inform the Publications-Print Chairman whenever a committee for specialized subjects is appointed.
4. Any books and/or material written for NGC become the property of NGC. All submissions for publication must be sent to NGC Publications-Print Chairman, Website Chairman, and Headquarters electronically in editable format. To copyright will be the decision of the NGC Executive Committee and would be in the name of NGC.

5. The following will be printed in each NGC publications: pamphlet, brochure, booklet or book. "All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be translated or reproduced in any form by any means without prior written permission of the publisher, National Garden Clubs, Inc, except for the Study Guides, brief quotes and in connection with reviews. For information to reproduce and/or translate sections from this publication, please write to: NGC Headquarters, 4401 Magnolia Ave., St. Louis, MO 63110."
6. Permission to reproduce and/or translate sections from any publication shall be addressed to the Publications-Print Chairman.
7. Reprint requests from the Publications-Print Committee shall include the following information from the previous printing; date of publication, number published, cost and sale price (if any) with recommendations for reprinting.
8. The President, Executive Director, Finance Committee and Publications-Print Chairman shall be authorized to obtain bids and reorder NGC Publications or reprints if it is in the best interest of the organization subject to the approval of the Executive Committee and ratification by the Board of Directors.
9. Only the author's name and date shall be printed on new and reprints of NGC publications.
10. State Garden Club Publications may utilize material from other State Garden Club Publications provided full credit is given to the source.

## **RECORDING SECRETARY**

The first draft of the minutes is to be sent within 30 days by the Recording Secretary to the Minutes Review Committee who are to return corrections to the Recording Secretary within one week. Finalized minutes are to be distributed by the Recording Secretary within one week.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

1. Any resolutions involving legislation must be in the hands of the NGC President and the Legislation Chairman 15 days before proposed presentation at the Executive Committee Meeting. The fifteen-day requirement may be waived by the NGC President under special circumstances.
2. If a resolution refers to a Bill which has been or will be introduced in Congress, one copy of the Bill shall be sent to the NGC President, and one copy to the NGC Legislation Chairman.
3. In case of an emergency, the NGC Legislation Chairman may take action, with the consent of the NGC President or First Vice-President if the President is not available.

## **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

### **1. The NGC Scholarship Chairman shall:**

- a. Compile the list of state scholarship chairmen and their contact information for inclusion in the NGC Scholarship Application.
- b. Submit the updated NGC Scholarship Application to the NGC website.
- c. Notify all state scholarship chairmen when the updated NGC Scholarship Application is ready for distribution.
- d. State Garden 'Clubs with less than 8000 paid members will be allowed to submit 1 application to be considered annually for an NGC Scholarship; States with 8001- 15,999 members will qualify for 2 Scholarships annually and states with a membership of 16,000, or more, qualify for up to 3 Scholarships annually. In January, the NGC Scholarship Chairman will notify Scholarship Chairmen of the states that are eligible to submit more than 1 application.
- e. Submit a recommendation to the Executive Committee at the Fall Board Meeting in the even-numbered year that the name of the outgoing President be added to the list of names in the bylaws for whom scholarships are awarded.
- f. Make recommendations to the Finance Committee when necessary in reference to the number and/or amount of NGC Scholarships.

### **2. The NGC Scholarship Committee shall:**

- a. Determine the eligibility requirements for applicants of the NGC Scholarships.
- b. Choose the format and the information required on the NGC Scholarship Application.
- c. Establish the procedure for judging the application.
- d. Judge the applications to determine the number of winners per scholarships available, as determined by the Finance and Budget Committees.
- e. Make the application available on the NGC website in August each year.
- f. Combine named scholarships to conform to the number of scholarships that will actually be funded/awarded.
- g. Shred all applications after the NGC Annual Convention. The original applications to be retained at headquarters.

## **SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Sponsorship Committee will seek sponsor relationships with advertisers and/or vendors that support NGC's goals and objectives financially, promotionally, or by the provision of products or services. (May 2022)

## **SEAL**

1. The NGC Seal is to be kept at Headquarters.
2. The NGC Seal shall be restricted to NGC use, and any unusual requests for use of the Seal shall be referred by the Executive Director to the NGC President.

## ***THE NATIONAL GARDENER***

1. All members may subscribe to the digital *The National Gardener*, free of charge, by using the subscription form on the website. Subscribers receive *The National Gardener* directly to their email addresses. Individual winners of the Award of Excellence will be provided subscription information. All subscribers may unsubscribe at any time. *The National Gardener* is also available for viewing on the NGC website without a subscription.
2. Digital copies of *The National Gardener* shall be kept on file at NGC Headquarters in St. Louis.
3. Annually the State Garden Club Presidents shall send a current list of Club Presidents and District Directors with contact information to NGC Headquarters.
4. Courtesy memorials or eulogies may be published for former NGC Presidents.
5. In odd-numbered years, the names of candidates for NGC office shall be published in the Winter issue of *The National Gardener*.
6. The CALL to the NGC Convention shall be published in the Winter issue of *The National Gardener* and is THE OFFICIAL CALL TO THE NGC CONVENTION.
7. Official notice of proposed amendments to the Bylaws shall be published on the website. (FBM 2021)
8. Selection of advertising in *The National Gardener* shall be at the discretion of the Editor, except that no advertising will be accepted which competes with NGC programs.
9. Educational information relative to the incumbent administration and program assistance from NGC shall be emphasized in the Summer issue of *The National Gardener*.
10. All articles and images published in *The National Gardener* shall identify the individual author and photographer submitting the article or image. Authors may only submit



original material for publication in *The National Gardener* and agree that their articles may be edited for content. Images submitted with articles must cite the source of the image along with necessary permissions for publication.

11. The four issues of *The National Gardener* will be known as Fall (October, November, December), Winter (January, February, March), Spring (April, May, June), and Summer (July, August, September).
12. The following will be published in the National Gardener: "All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be translated or reproduced in any form by any means without prior written permission of the Editor, National Garden Clubs, Inc. except for the Study Guides, brief quotes, and in connection with reviews. For information to reproduce and/or translate sections from this publication, please write to NGC Headquarters, 4401 Magnolia Ave., St. Louis, MO 63110."

## WEBSITE

1. The NGC Website is an e-property/asset that is a computer-generated communication for NGC members and the public.
2. The NGC Website may have more than one section. The password/s for any Restricted Sections shall be given to members of the Board of Directors at the Post-Convention Board Meeting and/or from NGC Headquarters.
3. The NGC Website shall contain the four most recent years of convention and board meeting minutes.
6. Any information submitted for publication on the public NGC website will be accepted with the understanding that all contact information will be available to the general public. Members whose contact information is included on school forms must give consent.
7. It shall be the policy of NGC not to accept advertising links except those of approved partnerships. Links to National Affiliates and horticulture, design and environmental organizations shall be accepted on a reciprocal basis.
8. **WEBSITE Blog/Podcast Disclaimer:**  
The views and opinions expressed in the National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC) blog and podcasts are solely those of the original author(s) and other contributors. These views and opinions do not necessarily reflect those of NGC.  
NGC is not responsible for the content of any comments on the NGC blog. The content of comments are the sole responsibility of the original commenter(s). NGC reserves the right to edit, delete, or not publish any comment for any reason or no reason in its sole discretion. Without limiting the foregoing, comments must not:
  - Contain any material which is defamatory, obscene, indecent, abusive, offensive, harassing, violent, hateful, inflammatory or otherwise objectionable.
  - Promote sexually explicit or pornographic material, violence, or discrimination based on race, sex, religion, nationality, disability, sexual orientation or age.

- Infringe any patent, trademark, trade secret, copyright or other intellectual property or other rights of any other person.
- Violate the legal rights (including the rights of publicity and privacy) of others or contain any material that could give rise to any civil or criminal liability under applicable laws or regulations or that otherwise may be in conflict with these Terms of Use and our Privacy Policy.
- Be likely to deceive any person.
- Promote any illegal activity, or advocate, promote or assist any unlawful act.
- Cause annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety or be likely to upset, embarrass, alarm or annoy any other person.
- Impersonate any person or misrepresent your identity or affiliation with any person or organization.
- Involve commercial activities or sales, such as contests, sweepstakes and other sales promotions, barter or advertising.
- Give the impression that they emanate from or are endorsed by us or any other person or entity, if this is not the case.

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**9. WEBSITE YouTube Disclaimer:**

The National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC) YouTube channel is intended for informational purposes only. Visitors to the NGC YouTube channel may post views and opinions in reaction to materials on the NGC YouTube channel. Any content, views, opinions, and/or responses to questions uploaded, expressed, or submitted by the creators, sponsors, advertisers, or users of YouTube, including on its web pages, message boards, and groups or otherwise communicated through it, other than the content provided by NGC are solely the views, opinions, and responsibilities of the person(s) submitting them and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of NGC. NGC is not responsible for content that third parties publish, post, upload, distribute, disseminate or otherwise transmit via YouTube. THE INFORMATION ON THE NGC YOUTUBE CHANNEL IS PROVIDED “AS IS” WITHOUT ANY REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED. NGC DOES NOT MAKE ANY WARRANTY OR REPRESENTATION WITH RESPECT TO THE CONTENT OF THE NGC YOUTUBE CHANNEL. ANY ACTION YOU TAKE UPON THE INFORMATION ON THE NGC YOUTUBE CHANNEL IS STRICTLY AT YOUR OWN RISK, AND NGC WILL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY LOSSES OR DAMAGES IN CONNECTION WITH THE USE OF THE NGC YOUTUBE CHANNEL.

## WRITING STYLE GUIDE

*The National Association of Parliamentarians* Writing Style and Standards Style Guide shall be used as a reference for consistency in writing bylaws, standing rules, and manuals.

**REVISED: October 1989**

**AMENDED:**

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