



County 76 Master Gardeners' Bylaws

ARTICLE I – Name

This organization shall be known as the County 76 Master Gardeners.

ARTICLE II – Purpose

The County 76 Master Gardeners are volunteers of the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service operating as volunteers at the state level. The goals of this organization shall be to strengthen and support the Arkansas Master Gardener program statewide and to establish policies and guidelines for consistency in the state Master Gardener program. County 76 will follow all University of Arkansas Master Gardener program and financial management guidelines.

ARTICLE III – Membership

- A. Membership is open to all Master Gardeners who are active members in good standing in their counties.
- B. To retain membership in County 76, Master Gardeners must:
 - 1) Remain in good standing in their home county.
 - 2) Complete at least 10 hours per fiscal year in the County 76 program. These hours cannot be applied to the county programs.
- C. Membership entitles the individual to attend meetings, participate as a voting member, hold office and participate in projects or other County 76 activities.
- D. County agents that have an active Master Gardener program in their county may join County 76 as ad hoc members with no requirement for project work hours.
- E. County 76 Master Gardeners, whose fiscal year shall be from January 1 through December 31, will hold at least four meetings per year. Meetings cancelled due to inclement weather or other reasons will be rescheduled at the discretion of the Executive Board. All financial and reporting statistics shall be based on the fiscal year.

ARTICLE IV – Executive Board

The Executive Board shall act as the governing body of County 76 Master Gardeners and transact its necessary business. The Board shall consist of the officers of County 76 Master Gardeners, the County 76 Agent and the County 76 Assistant Agent. The County 76 Agent, who provides leadership and counsel to the Master Gardener program, shall serve as Advisor to and Administrator of County 76 Master Gardeners. As the UA Cooperative Extension Service representative, the County 76 Agent is the final authority on its projects and programs. The County 76 Assistant Agent shall serve as liaison to the Executive Board at the discretion of the County 76 Agent. A simple majority of the members of the Executive Board present shall constitute a quorum. The President shall schedule meetings of the Executive Board prior to quarterly meetings.

ARTICLE V – Officers

- A. The officers of County 76 Master Gardeners shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Past President. Elections for the President and Vice President shall be held at the last meeting of even numbered years. Elections for the Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer shall be held at the last meeting of odd numbered years. Officers will serve for a term of two years and shall assume office January 1st following election. No person may hold more than one office at the same time or hold an office for more than two successive terms.

- B. Vacant offices and committee chairs shall be filled by appointment by the President, with the approval of the Executive Board, for the remainder of the unexpired term. However, if the office of either the President or the Vice President becomes vacant, it shall be filled by a special election of the general membership. If an officer has served more than half a term, the individual is considered to have served a full term in that office. Officers leaving their term of office for any reason shall transfer all records and property of their office to their successor.

ARTICLE VI – Duties of Officers

- A. The President shall:
 - 1) Preside at all meetings at which he or she is present.
 - 2) Schedule Executive Board meetings at least quarterly
 - 3) Prepare agenda for meetings and send to Secretary for distribution.
 - 4) Exercise general supervision over the affairs and activities of County 76 Master Gardeners.
 - 5) Be responsible for the formation and dissolution of committees.
 - 6) Assure that the committees are functioning and appoint members to committees as required.
 - 7) Appoint by November 1st of each year an Audit Committee who is to report its findings to the membership no later than February 15th.
 - 8) Appoint a Nominating Committee prior to the last meeting each year and appoint other ad hoc committees, as needed.
 - 9) Be a signee on the County 76 bank account(s).

B. The Vice President shall:

- 1) Perform the duties of the President whenever the President is absent.
- 2) Provide guidance to Project Chairs to assure project work remains within the organizational guidelines.
- 3) Oversee County 76 Sanctioned Projects and maintain appropriate records.
- 4) Monitor the bylaws and advise the Executive Committee of needed revisions.
- 5) Coordinate update of volunteer manual.
- 6) Coordinate all general membership meeting activities under the direction of the President.
- 7) Coordinate County 76 activities at the state meeting with County 76 Agent and County 76 Assistant Agent.

C. The Secretary shall:

- 1) Maintain written records of all meetings of County 76 Master Gardeners and of meetings of the Executive Board.
- 2) Conduct the correspondence of the County 76 Master Gardeners at the direction of the President.
- 3) Distribute the agenda, minutes and Treasurer's report to the membership, one week prior to quarterly meetings.
- 4) Serve as Online Manager for County 76 hours reporting.
- 5) Provide an updated list of current members and project hours to the Executive Board by the first meeting of each fiscal year.

D. The Treasurer shall:

- 1) Assure compliance and adherence to all County 76 and University of Arkansas Master Gardener financial guidelines.
- 2) Update bank account signatories, as needed, at the beginning of each fiscal year.
- 3) Validate all expense and authorize/verify payment of invoices in accordance with County 76 and University of Arkansas Master Gardeners' financial guidelines as necessary to fulfill the business of County 76 Master Gardeners.
- 4) Present a current financial statement at each meeting of the general membership.
- 5) Prepare an annual budget in consultation with the Executive Board for presentation to the membership by December 15th of each year and for vote at the first meeting of the fiscal year.
- 6) Work with the Audit Committee to facilitate the annual audit of the books.
- 7) Provide an annual report at the end of the year.
- 8) Be a signee on the County 76 bank account(s).

E. The Assistant Treasurer shall:

- 1) Assist the Treasurer in assuring compliance and adherence to all County 76 and University of Arkansas Master Gardener financial guidelines.
- 2) Assume the duties and responsibilities of the Treasurer in his or her absence.

- 3) Assist Treasurer with completion of financial reports for meetings, development of an annual budget and preparation of annual year end report.

F. The Past President shall:

- 1) Serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee with members appointed by the President.
- 2) Serve as Chair of the Janet B. Carson Scholarship Committee with members appointed by the President.
- 3) Serve as Quarterly meeting lunch coordinator.

ARTICLE VII – Projects/Committees

County 76 sanctioned projects will focus on organizational, leadership, and general management issues. County 76 members decide which projects will be created and each member decides which project he/she wants to work. Project Chairs shall serve for one fiscal year with two successive years maximum. All Chairs of the County 76 Master Gardeners' projects and committees may attend Executive Board meetings as non-voting members. The President shall create committees as needed and shall appoint committee chairs.

ARTICLE VIII – Budget

- A. A proposed budget of anticipated revenues and expenditures as prepared by the Treasurer shall be submitted to the Executive Board no later than November 30th. The Executive Board shall present the proposed budget for review by the membership no later than December 15th. A vote for approval of the budget by the general membership shall be held at the first meeting of the following year.
- B. The Executive Board shall authorize fundraising activities for County 76 Master Gardeners when the purpose of such activities is in agreement with the objectives of the group and not in conflict with the nature of County 76 Master Gardeners.

ARTICLE IX – Amendments

The bylaws may be amended at any regular or called meeting of County 76 Master Gardeners by a simple majority vote of the eligible members present, provided that written notice of the proposed changes has been sent to the membership at least 15 days before the time of the meeting.