

Constitution of the Motor City Aquarium Society

Article I

Name

- A. This organization shall be called the "Motor City Aquarium Society." It will be a non-profit organization and in no form will any member or non-member will receive any of the net earnings or assets.
- B. The official publication of the Motor City Aquarium Society shall be called the "Tropiquarium."

Article II

Aims and/or Purpose

- A. To further the study of all forms of aquatic life.
- B. To exchange information.
- C. To encourage the display and propagation of aquatic life forms.

Article III

Membership

- A. The membership of this organization shall be open to all persons who have an interest in aquatic life.
- B. The general membership shall consist of the following classifications.
 - 1) Adult - Any person 18 years or older.
 - 2) Adult Family - Husband/wife/partner and children residing at home.
 - 3) Junior - Person 12 to 17 years of age.
 - 4) Current lifetime members.
 - 5) Honorary Membership - Awarded at the discretion of the Executive Board.
 - 6) Fellow of the Motor City Aquarium Society.
- C. A member in good standing shall be defined as any person who has paid the prescribed annual dues or who has not voluntarily withdrawn or has been suspended from membership.
- D. Visitors 12 years of age or older are invited to attend up to two (2) general meetings prior to joining the society.
- E. Dues shall be determined by the Executive Board and reviewed annually. Current dues will be posted in the Tropiquarium. All members must pay their annual dues in one payment within sixty (60) days from the date of expiration.
- F. Any member in arrears shall be notified that they are being suspended from the rolls of the organization.
- G. In the event a member is unable to pay his/her dues, action will be left to the discretion of the Executive Board.

Article IV Meetings

- A. A general meeting of the society shall be held monthly. The B.O.D. may deem that some months, a meeting will not be held.
- B. The business meeting of the Executive Committee shall be held within ten days of the General meeting. All business meetings shall be open to all members.
- C. The Annual Meeting shall be the first meeting of the fiscal year; all others shall be known as General or Business.
- D. A meeting quorum shall be:
 - 1) Business: Two (2) members of the Executive Board and half of the Board of Directors.
 - 2) General: Two (2) members of the Executive Board and the general membership present at a General Meeting.

Article V Officers

- A. Compositions of the Executive Board shall be the following:
 - 1) President
 - 2) Vice-President
 - 3) Secretary
 - 4) Treasurer
 - 5) Board of Directors
- B. A member may only hold one office unless approved by a vote of the Executive Board.
- C. The Board of Directors shall number not less than two and no more than eight. The actual number to be determined by the size of the general membership, having one director for approximately each fifteen (15) paid memberships at the time of election.
- D. No more than two members of an immediate family shall simultaneously hold positions on the Executive Board and/or committee chairpersonships or co-chairpersonships.

Article VI Duties of Officers

- A. President
 - 1) Preside at all meetings of the society.
 - 2) Exercise general supervision over club activities.
 - 3) Appoint committee chair people with the approval of the Executive Board after publication of available positions for a period of at least one month prior to appointments.
 - 4) Enforce the Constitution and By-Laws.
 - 5) Shall strive to notify Executive Board personally of special business meetings at least 48 hours prior to said meeting.

- 6) Must appoint an auditing Committee of at least three members in good standing, to audit the Treasurer's accounts prior to the end of the fiscal year.
 - 7) Vote only in case of a tie.
 - 8) May convene a special meeting as necessary.
- B. Vice-President
- 1) Shall preside in the absence of the President and perform the duties of that office.
 - 2) Shall act as the parliamentarian at all meetings.
- C. Secretary
- 1) Shall take and keep accurate minutes of the club meetings.
 - 2) Provide minutes for timely publication in the Tropiquarium.
 - 3) Retain club correspondence file and membership roster.
 - 4) Shall preside over meetings in the absence of all other officers.
- D. Treasurer
- 1) Shall retain an accurate record of all funds collected and pay bills approved by the Executive Board.
 - 2) Shall summarize a statement of accounts at each business meeting in writing, provide a copy for file, and make available monthly statement to the general membership at general meetings.
 - 3) Provide an annual financial report.
 - 4) Preside over meetings in the absence of the President and Vice-President.
- E. Board of Directors
- 1) The Board of Directors shall be responsible to the general membership for all formulation and implementation of specific policies and programs of the Society.

Article VII Election of Executive Board

- A. Nominees for office must be adult members in good standing.
- B. Nominees for Board of Directors may be adult or junior members in good standing.
- C. A Nominating Committee will be formed at least two months prior to elections. The committee shall collect names of nominees and follow written procedures supplied by the Executive Board.
- D. Nominees for elected positions shall be chosen by the general members at a general membership meeting.
- E. Board of Directors shall be elected for two years and terms shall be staggered to retain continuity.
- F. Ballots for Board of Directors positions shall clearly distinguish between full and unexpired vacancies.
- G. Officers shall be elected for one year.
- H. Elections shall be conducted at the last general meeting of the fiscal year.
- I. The President must have served one term on the Board of Directors.

Article VIII Committees

- A. Standing committees are as follows:
- 1) Membership: Shall be responsible for the recruiting of new members, greeting new and prospective members at club functions, maintaining a current list of members.
 - 2) Program: Shall have the responsibility of planning and carrying out programs for regular monthly meetings.
 - 3) Social: Shall be in charge of refreshments at regular meetings and at all social functions; shall turn over all moneys collected in excess of the budgeted amount to the treasurer.
 - 4) Breeders Award Program (B.A.P.): Maintain a file of fish bred and by whom, keep a listing of names of participating members and their current up-to-date point total; assure that all rules and regulations pertaining to the B.A.P. are followed and to give to the Tropiquarium Editor a copy of all written materials or programs for publication or name persons who are to give talks to the Program Chairperson; have a list of programs members' names and point totals published each month in the Tropiquarium.
 - 5) Bowl Show: Keep records of the monthly bowl show results; issue first, second, and third place certificates for each month's winners; enforce all rules and regulations governing and competition; have a list of the participating general members and their point totals, as well as the fish, or fishes, to be shown the following month, published monthly in the Tropiquarium.
 - 6) Standing committees shall also include the editor, exchange editor, and F.A.A.S. representative. These persons shall also have a vote as described in Article IX, Section C (2).
- B. Special committees shall be those committees deemed necessary by the Executive Board.
- C. Any proposed changes in the function, rules or operation of any committee shall require Executive Board approval only. Such accepted changes shall be published in the Tropiquarium with a month of aforementioned approval.

Article IX Voting

- A. General meeting: All members 12 years and older shall have a vote.
- B. Family Membership: Each family shall have no more than two votes.
- C. Executive Board:
- a. All members of the Executive Board shall have a vote with the exception, who shall vote only in the case of a tie.
 - b. The chair people of all standing committees shall have a vote.
 - c. All temporary committee chair people shall enjoy all privileges of the Executive Board with the exception of voting.

Article X Section I
Removal of an Officer

- A. An elected officer may be removed from that office by one of the following methods:
 - 1) A 2/3 majority vote of all Executive Board and standing committee chairpeople.
 - 2) A 2/3 majority ballot vote of the General membership in attendance at a general meeting.
- B. An elected officer who shall miss, without good reason, any two consecutive board meetings, without approval of the Executive Board, shall be removed from his or her office.
- C. An elected officer whose removal is pending shall be given notification prior to the removal date.

Article X Section II
Vacancies

- A. Should a vacancy occur in the office of President due to removal or resignation, the Vice-President shall assume the office.
- B. Should a vacancy occur in any other office, the President shall appoint a replacement to serve until the next election, subject to the approval of the Executive Board and standing committee chairpeople.
- C. Resignation shall be made in writing and submitted at the first available board meeting.

Article XI
Suspension of General Member

- A. A member accused of committing a dishonorable act or working against the interests of the Society and against whom written charges have been preferred by any member, after a hearing at a duly-approved meeting and a 2/3 vote of the members present, be suspended from membership in the Society.
- B. All concerned shall be notified in advanced.

Article XII
Constitutional Changes and Amendments

- A. Any changes or amendments to this constitution may be made in writing through the Executive Committee and must be accepted by a 2/3 ballot vote of the General Membership present.
- B. Any proposed amendments or revisions shall be printed in at least two (2) monthly publications or put on the web site and be discussed at the General meeting before voting.
- C. This constitution shall be in effect for five years at which time it must be reviewed and updated as necessary.
- D. This constitution replaces all previous constitutions.

Article XIII
Dissolution

- A. If and when it becomes necessary to dissolve this organization, all physical properties shall be liquidated. All physical payment of its financial obligations, all proceeds, and all club accounts will be donated. All remaining proceeds will be divided between the educational and research funds of the American Cichlid Association, the Guy Jordan Fund, the American Livebearer Association, the Vern Parish Fund, and the American Killifish Fish Research Fund.
- B. If this donation cannot be accepted or if then existing laws prohibit the donation, a special meeting of the Executive Board shall determine an alternative to Part A.
- C. The final act, the president of the M.C.A.S., or other designated members, shall notify in writing all Government Agencies with which M.C.A.S. may at that time be registered, of the dissolution of M.C.A.S. and the dispersal of its properties.

Article XIV
Fellow of the M.C.A.S.

- A. The Executive Board has the option of granting "Fellow of The Motor City Aquarium Society."
- B. This is to be given with a majority vote of the Executive Board.
- C. This honor may be given posthumously.
- D. A fellow is relieved of dues payment but receives all of the entitlements of a general membership.
- E. Fellows of the M.C.A.S. will be listed in the Tropiquarium.
- F. Any person granted a Lifetime Membership as of June 30, 2013, shall retain that membership if they fulfill their active role in the club.