

## **BYLAWS OF THE FINNISH CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

### **ARTICLE I – AFFILIATION**

This Chapter shall be affiliated with the American Rhododendron Society as a Chapter thereof, and shall be known as the Finnish Chapter.

### **ARTICLE II – PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Chapter is to promote the study and culture of rhododendrons and to stimulate interest in Rhododendrons by any appropriate means, including the holding of regular meetings of members and keeping close co-operation with the national Finnish Rhododendron Society. In addition, this Chapter shall support the American Rhododendron Society by allocation of a portion of the dues as hereinafter provided.

### **ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in this Chapter shall be open to all persons interested in the growth and culture of Rhododendrons and Azaleas. All members of the Chapter shall be deemed members of the American Rhododendron Society and shall be entitled to all privileges thereof. Membership shall be in classes as provided for members of the American Rhododendron Society. All members shall be entitled to vote at all meetings of the membership, participate in all shows and exhibitions and receive all publications issued by the Chapter.

### **ARTICLE IV – DUES**

Dues for the regular members shall be fixed by the Chapter on a yearly basis to cover the membership payment to the American Rhododendron Society and the expenditures of the Chapter, payable September 1st, and delinquent October 31st of each year.

A Finnish bank account is opened and used to collect the payments of the membership dues.

The Treasurer shall remit to the American Rhododendron Society an amount for each membership as prescribed by their articles.

Any member in another Chapter of the ARS may become as Associate Member of the Finnish Chapter by paying the annual dues of the Chapter.

### **ARTICLE V – GOVERNING BOARD**

The officers of the Chapter shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the chapter and the immediate Past President.

The Board shall be vested with the authority to carry on the business of the Chapter and the management of its affairs. There shall be at least one Board meeting each year. Attendance of three members is considered a quorum.

## **ARTICLE VI – DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

- a) The President shall preside at all meetings and shall perform the recognized functions of a president, and shall work with the Secretary and Treasurer on correspondence to ARS and other organizational matters.
- b) The Vice President shall preside in the absence of the President and/or upon request by the President, and shall assume the duties of the President if the office is vacated.
- c) The Secretary shall record all actions taken at all meetings of the chapter, and shall work with the President on correspondence to ARS and other organizational matters.
- d) The Treasurer shall be responsible for: handling the funds of the chapter; maintaining a current address list of members, with prompt notice to the Society of any and all changes; submitting an annual financial report; with the assistance of the board, developing an annual budget; and shall remit to the American Rhododendron Society an amount for each member as prescribed by the American Rhododendron Society.

## **ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS**

Special meetings may be called at any time by the President or the Board. There shall not be less than three meetings of the members held each year. Regular meetings are held in February, in April or May and in September, coincident with the regular meetings of the Finnish Rhododendron Society.

## **ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS**

These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the Chapter. Copies of the proposed By-Law amendments will be available at the meeting prior to the time of voting.

## **ARTICLE IX – ELECTIONS**

Election of the officers will take place at the annual meeting of the Chapter in April or May. The term of office of each officer shall commence at the adjournment of the annual meeting following his election, and continue for two years thereafter or until his successor is duly elected and qualified.

## **ARTICLE X - DISSOLUTION OF THE CHAPTER**

In the event of the dissolution of the chapter, all assets remaining shall be distributed to the American Rhododendron Society or to the Finnish Rhododendron Society (Dendrologian Seura ry:n Rhododendron-kerho), at the discretion of the Board Members.