

Constitution of
Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association
383 Coal Hollow Rd. Christiansburg, VA. 24073-6721

Article 1: Name and Objectives

Section 1: The name of this Association shall be the Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association.

Section 2: The objectives of this Association shall be to:

1. Promote and develop among the growers of Christmas trees in Virginia a community of interest to the end that, through better acquaintance with each other, the exchange of information, and cooperative effort, practical solutions may be found for many of the problems incident to the production and marketing of quality Christmas trees and related products.
2. Engage in publicity and educational work, in cooperation with existing agencies, to the end that there may be developed a popular understanding of production and marketing of quality Christmas trees and related products.
3. Keep its members informed concerning current developments and the results of research on the production and marketing of quality Christmas trees.
4. Assist members in marketing their Christmas trees.
5. Enlist the aid of state and federal agencies and private industry in conducting research and the promotion of the Christmas tree industry in Virginia.

Section 3: The Association shall operate on a non-profit basis.

Article 2: Membership

Section 1: The members of this Association shall be either (1) active or (2) associate. Active members are persons or firms actually engaged in growing Christmas trees or related products. Associate members may be any other person, business, or agency interested in the tree industry. Associate members shall have floor privileges but no right to vote. If membership is in two or more names or a business or partnership, only one vote shall be allowed each such membership and only one person per membership may hold an office.

Section 2: Applications for membership must be accompanied by one year's dues.

Section 3: Annual dues shall be determined by the VCTGA membership at an annual meeting. Dues shall be payable by December 31 of each year. Members, joining the VCTGA after October 1, shall be considered paid-up members for the following calendar year.

Article 3: Board of Directors and Duties of Officers

- Section 1: The overall direction of the affairs of the Association shall be vested in a Board of Directors consisting of (1) the President, (2) the immediate past President, (3) the Vice President and (6) six regular Directors. The two officers shall be elected in odd-numbered years for two-year terms, and two of the six Directors shall be elected each year, also for two-year terms. No officer or Director shall serve for more than three consecutive terms except to complete a partial term of an interim election. All officers and Directors shall serve without pay. The board shall meet at least once annually, the time and location to be decided by the President. Five of the nine Board members shall constitute a quorum. The National Director and Executive Secretary shall serve as non-voting members of the board.
- Section 2: Elections for the two officers and six Directors shall be held at the proper annual business meeting, with nominations requested first from the chairman of a nomination committee and second from the floor. All contested elections shall be by written secret ballot. Vacancies occurring in any position on the Board shall be filled by appointment of the President, such appointment to be valid until the next called meeting of the full membership.
- Section 3: To select the National Director, the President shall appoint a committee consisting of VCTGA members who are also national members, and this committee shall forward nominees to the National Christmas Tree Association headquarters for a mail ballot under its auspices. If the National Director is unable to fulfill his term in office, the VCTGA President shall appoint someone to fill the unexpired term of the National Director until new elections can be held within 12 months.
- Section 4: The president shall preside at all meetings of the full Association or of the Board of Directors, and shall have general charge and supervision of the affairs of the Association. He shall appoint any necessary committee and serve as ex officio member thereof.
- Section 5: The Vice President shall assume the duties of the President in his absence, or at his request. He shall be responsible for the program at the annual business meeting. He shall also perform such other duties as shall from time to time be assigned to him by the President.
- Section 6: The Board shall appoint an Executive Secretary who will be responsible for collecting all dues and other receipts, and for paying all bills of the Association. He shall prepare at least one Treasurer's report annually and his books shall be audited at least once annually. He shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Board and of the VCTGA business meetings. He shall oversee the publication of the VCTGA newsletter and in general coordinate any business of the Association requiring extensive mailings. He shall serve at the pleasure of the Board and shall receive a stipend determined annually by the Board.

Article 4: Full Meeting

Section 1: Meetings of the full Association shall be called either by the Board of Directors or by the President, or by written request to the President of 10 percent of the Association's dues-paying membership. Notices shall go to all members at least thirty (30) days prior to a meeting, with the purpose or program of the meeting indicated. Twenty-five percent of VCTGA members present shall constitute a quorum. At least one business meeting of the Association shall be held each year to (1) approve dues for the subsequent calendar year and (2) elect officers or Directors of the Board.

Article 5: Committees

The following committees may be created as deemed necessary, either by the President or by the Board, with appointments thereunto to be made by the President:

- Section 1: A Marketing Committee consisting of the Executive Secretary, who shall be a member, and two other members. Its duties shall be to provide the membership with information on wholesale and retail markets, methods of selling, and other information relative to the marketing of Virginia-grown Christmas trees.
- Section 2: A Membership Committee consisting of a Board Member (who shall be Chairman), and two other Association members. The Committee shall have the responsibility for promotion of and building up membership in the Association.
- Section 3: A Publicity and Promotion Committee composed of three members. The chief duties of the Committee shall be to promote the interests of the Association and industry by gathering information and news about the industry that is of interest to consumers and publishing same in newspapers, newsletters, radio, TV, and other media.
- Section 4: An Auditing Committee consisting of three members appointed prior to the annual business meeting of the Association. This Committee shall audit the books and accounts of the Executive Secretary after the close of the fiscal year and report to the full membership.

(revised 5/31/07)