



## Nominating Procedures for the Membership to The Garden Club of St. Louis

In order to maintain a vibrant Club with diverse interests we are always seeking new members who will embody our **Mission Statement**:

*“To stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening and to restore, improve, and protect the quality of the environment through programs and actions of the fields of conservation, civic improvement, and education.”*

As stated in our Bylaws in Article VI, Section C, Provisional Members are the candidates for Active Membership in the Club. They will remain in this category for approximately one year. Provisional Members shall not be qualified to vote, hold office, propose or sponsor nominees for membership or be a delegate to an Annual or Zone Meeting of The Garden Club of America.

Provisional Members will be expected to meet the requirements as set out by the Provisional Committee and show an interest in the activities of the Club. They shall pay dues in the same manner as Active Members.

## Selection

Candidates should have the following:

1. A demonstrable interest in one or more aspects of our Club: conservation, floral design, photography, horticulture, garden design and history, or botanical arts.
2. A willingness to put time and energy into the work and programs of the Club: environmental protection in the fields of conservation, civic improvement, and education.
3. The desire to be involved in organizational aspects of the Club itself by engagement on at least one committee within the Club, and support of special events and fundraisers.

## Nomination

Nomination of the potential member requires **one Proposer and two Sponsors**. The Club encourages Proposers and Sponsors to bring potential candidates to one or two Club Programs to see if they would be compatible with and interested in our Club.

The Proposer should fill out the Application Form and submit it along with the following:

1. A personal letter of Proposal from the Proposer. Please include a photo.
2. A letter of support from each Sponsor.

The Membership Chairs will be accepting completed nomination files beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> until the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in March.

Please submit your entire Candidate file to the Membership Committee once it is fully completed.

Note: A Member may propose only one Candidate per year. A Member may also sponsor two Candidates per year.

## **Role of the Proposer**

If the candidate is accepted as a Provisional Member, the Proposer is expected to shepherd and encourage the Provisional Member's active participation in the various activities and events of the Club. After one year of Provisional Membership, the Board votes on whether to promote the Provisional Candidates to Active status according to the Bylaws.

## **Timeline**

Beginning January 1 until the first Monday in March, the Candidate's completed file must be submitted to the Membership Chairs.

At the April meeting of the Membership Committee, the Candidates' application files are reviewed, and a slate of Provisional Members is presented to the Board at their May meeting for a vote. If approved, the slate is subject to a two-week review period by the general Membership. If no objections are put forth, Proposers are asked to notify the Candidate and their Sponsors of their acceptance as a new Provisional Member and welcome them into the Club.

In May the new Provisional Members will be invited to attend the Annual Meeting in June where it is customary for the Proposer and the Sponsors to accompany them and introduce them to the Membership.