

Member Plant Selling (Board Meeting)

9/25 Our 501c 3 status in regards to members selling plants for profit was questioned to be clarified (by president Jean Rogers). For most members their expenses for supplies, time and heating/cooling for the plants would outway the money brought in by the plants sale. Therefore sales by members should be viewed as non-profit. Also the constitution states the following “ It’s objectives shall be to operate on a non-profit basis solely for benevolent, charitable, scientific, and educational purposes.”If we allow members (Mark Prout) to sell plants he will be re-cooping part of his expenses, and will be available to offer cultural/growing advice for each plant sold.

Similarly, in August for the picnic, we purchased plants from Iva Stribling for attending members to provide interest in growing companion plants to control pests in orchid collections. The Society reimbursed her for her expenses. We may do more things of this nature, so I would like to have a vote by the Board to clarify our policy.

Do You Agree or Disagree with the Following:

OSGKC Members may offer plants for sale to the membership as part of our mission to appreciate and learn about orchids. And the Society may purchase plants from members for a reimbursement or reasonable price for benevolent, charatable, scientific and educational purposes.

All members agreed, Joy Prout being married to Mark recused herself.

Brian Donavon offered some clarification.

“I’m in a leadership position in another 501c3. My understanding of 501c3 status is that--if Mark was chairperson or President--it would be inappropriate/illegal for him to profit from the activities of the organization by virtue of his position (for example, if Mark required all the members to buy a plant from him in order to attend meetings). I don't see any problem with Iva or Mark selling plants as described in Jean's email. There's also some precedent here: when we had our January meetings at The Cave, David sold plants to our members, and he was a member of our society at the time.”

10/7 Conclusion

Items were rewritten after group discussion and sent out for board approval.

To be added to the Constitution Article VII ?? (Member Sales)?

* In general, our society can arrange with individual society members to sell plants to other society members provided that the seller gives cultural information about the plants to further the educational goals of our organization's mission.

*If a member sells plants they are asked to donate a minimum of 10% on the honor system back to the society.

* Society members cannot sell plants during our monthly meeting when we have an outside speaker who is acting as a vendor.

* Member sales should take place outside of scheduled society events (e.g. before or after our regular meetings)

*Members wishing to sell plants must get permission from the president in advance.

* Members should not use our yearbook or mailing list as a basis to send repeated solicitations or advertisements for plant sales.