

MONTROSE BOTANICAL SOCIETY CODE OF ETHICS FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Approved by the Board of Directors, February 22, 2023

Reaffirmed by the Board of Directors on March 25, 2026

Rationale:

The Montrose Botanical Society is a non-profit organization established for the purpose of a public benefit. Our Mission expresses the way that we fulfill our public benefit purpose.

We recognize that ethical leadership and careful stewardship of our finances and the Gardens are important to maintain the trust of our members, donors, those we do business with, and those enjoying the Gardens.

Mission:

The Montrose Botanical Society is a non-profit organization that provides horticultural education and leadership for residents of the Uncompahgre Valley Region through the development of the Botanic Gardens for demonstration, education and leisure.

Purpose:

The purpose of the Montrose Botanical Society is to fulfill the goals of the mission statement by:

- 1. Raising funds to develop and support the Montrose Botanic Gardens.*
- 2. Selecting, cultivating and displaying regional shrubs, flowers and trees hardy in this climate.*
- 3. Being a regional educational resource.*

Policy:

We recognize that the membership looks to its leaders' actions to set the standards for conduct, and we desire to foster a climate of integrity among our members.

We place a high value on honesty, integrity, respect for others, accountability and transparency by our Board. The Board is to serve for the betterment of the Gardens and be faithful to the Mission, not to promote personal agendas.

We recognize that members join the Society because of a common interest in horticulture and gardening. The Gardens are a place where people come to enjoy the outdoors, spend time learning and working with fellow gardeners, and strive to keep our community asset looking beautiful and inviting to the community as a whole.

Our members bring a variety of passions, expertise and ideas. We value a respectful environment characterized by civil discourse, working and listening intently to those with differing opinions. Our Society is made stronger and our decision making is best, when we place value on this diversity.

Functions of the Society are offered to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, veteran status or disability. Ref: Bylaw X.

We will avoid conflicts of interest, and should there be potential conflicts of interest, those will be recognized and disclosed, and we will take steps to prevent influence or favoritism (such as the Board member being recused from decisions related to it.) Ref: Bylaw X.

We will be good stewards of the funds entrusted to us, with the purpose of advancing the Society's mission. We strive to be transparent in all financial operations and charitable solicitations. Financial updates will be provided periodically to the members via our newsletter and member gatherings, and the year-end financials will be posted to the Society website.

We follow environmentally responsible practices such as recycling, promoting water wise landscaping, and green waste composting.

We will review the Code of Ethics annually in January when the new Board is in place. Our statement shall be posted on the Society's website, along with the Bylaws.