

DISTRICT III NEWSLETTER

January, 2010

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DISTRICT III FALL MEETING

There were 192 registered for the fall district meeting, "Railroad Gardens; Past and Present" hosted by Four Flags GC. The morning slide presentation by Pres. Elaine Metzger was very informative to all those attending. In addition to wonderful vendors, door prizes and an excellent lunch, we had three choices for the afternoon--two tours or a talk on roses. Our thanks go to the entire garden club for all their efforts to make this such a very special day.

DISTRICT III SPRING MEETING

Petal Pushers Garden Club of Kalamazoo will host the **Friday, May 7th Spring District Meeting, "Fun With Flowers"**, so mark this day on your calendar. The morning talk will be on "Creating Community Gardens and Changing Lives" by JC Schneider, Advanced Master Gardener. Afternoon choices will be "Flower Arranging Workshops" by the Michigan Association of Accredited Judges or a talk by Ben Yost, owner of Farm & Garden on "Reproducing Forbs"(non-woody perennials). *Call Letters* will be sent in early March with more info.

NEW MEMBERS

Club Presidents, please tell your treasurers that new member information & dues should **not** be sent to Robin Courtwright.

Send to:

Sue Wilber, Treasurer, MGC, Inc.

1407 W. Union St.

Midland, MI 48640-4989

989-832-2792

E-Mail: cswilber@yahoo.com

OFFICERS & YEARBOOKS

Please notify me if you have a new President or if your e-mail changes.

If your club year goes from Jan.-Dec. please send me your new books as soon as they are available. If your club does not produce a yearbook, it would be very helpful if you could send a roster and a meeting schedule. Thirty clubs out of 39 have sent yearbooks for 2009-10. *Thank you so much!*

AWARDS, DEDICATIONS & VISITS

Michigan Life Members awarded to:

Bobbie Quick from The Niles GC and Genevieve Schuh from River Valley GC.

Indian Hills Garden Club dedicated a new garden and guardrail at the Margaret B. Upton Arboretum in St. Joseph.

The Niles Garden Club held a Blue Star Memorial Dedication at the south entrance to Niles where a new marker was installed. The old marker was donated to the museum.

Kalamazoo Garden Council where we had a talk on Beekeeping for the Home Garden.

Mattawan Garden Club's 75th Anniversary with a historical talk by Edith Boyle.

IMPORTANT DATES

April 19-20—Gardening Study School, Course IV, Midland

April 28-30—Landscape Design School, Course IV, East Lansing

May 4-5—Environmental School, Course I, Amigo Centre, Sturgis (Colon GC)
Registrar-Pat Hjertos, 269-496-4815

May 7—District III Meeting, Kalamazoo
May 11-16--NGC 81st Annual Convention, Atlanta, GA

May 24—**National** Blue Star Dedication
Ft. Custer National Cemetery, Battle Creek

May 25—MGC State Convention, "Seeds of Tomorrow", Battle Creek

October 14—Fall District Meeting,
Seedlings GC, Richland, Kal. Co.

June 6-12—**National Garden Week**
Theme-The World Around Us
Love It-Beautifuly It- Protect It



MICHIGAN GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

MEMBER OF NATIONAL
GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

January 13, 2010

To: All Michigan Garden Club, Inc. Club Presidents

At your Fall District Meeting, I requested that each member of each club be on my membership team and recruit new members. I hope you have been successful and will continue to recruit during the next few months with renewed resolve for the new year.

Since your meeting and my presentation on "R&R" – retention and recruitment – of new members in our local clubs, Lynn Divald and I have developed an incentive plan for each of our seven Districts for the 2010 spring and fall District meetings with the approval of the Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Executive Board and the Board of Directors.

Here is our plan. Clubs in each District will compete for the highest percentage of new members between June 1, 2009 and April 1, 2010. Using these dates as your guideline, the club in each District with the highest percentage of new members will receive free registration money for these new members to attend either the spring or fall 2010 District meeting. Marge McGoff, MGC, Inc. Finance Chairman, is managing the reimbursements to local winning clubs from the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation Edna Rosenfield Memorial Fund. Membership recruitment is the mission of this designated competition. The Rosenfield Fund also helped us design and implement our MGC, Inc. website. Through this joint initiative, MGC, Inc. and the Rosenfield Fund will continue to reach out to current and

new members of our MGC, Inc. family through future membership recruitment campaigns.

District meetings begin in April so we need the names of new members, along with the percentage of increase, turned in to your District Director no later than April 2nd via email, phone call or a quick note. We will then calculate the winning club in each district. The winning club will send in their registration form as usual to the registrar along with a special sheet showing the new club members. This new member listing will be passed on to the presiding District Director. Include all payments for new members and current members when you register for the District meeting. When we know the correct number of new members who attended the district meeting, Marge McGoff will then send your club a check for the new member's registration fee. This will be sent to your club treasurer after your District meeting.

If your District is having a club president's meeting in the spring, 2010, and then a full membership meeting in the fall, 2010, we will reimburse the club accordingly for the fall District meeting, 2010. However, the numbers will be based on the given dates above.

Please continue to recruit new members so we can honor your club and new members during the 2010 District meetings. This MGC initiative is also pertinent to our competition for the national daylily competition. Michigan CAN win the national competition with your help. Read this letter to your membership and light the fire to grow our membership to benefit not only your local projects but to support Lynn and me in our efforts to make Michigan the best in the nation for membership growth.

Nancy Stark, 1st Vice President and Membership Chairman
And Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Board of Directors