

April 24, 2020

## **MGC 2020 Conference June 3-5, 2020 CANCELLED**

Dear Michigan Garden Club Members,

It is with deep regret that I inform you today that our 2020 Conference in Lansing is officially cancelled.

With the Governor's announcement earlier today, we have been able to cancel our contract with the hotel, with no penalty. Our members health and safety has and continues to be our top priority. We appreciate your patience as we have navigated these unprecedented waters caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. If you had already registered for these events, your registration fees will be refunded. If you had made a hotel reservation, please contact the hotel directly to cancel your reservation. According to the hotel, it will be fully refunded.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Ann Schoals and the entire District IIB team for all their hard work to organize this conference and to Rita Crawley, MGC 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President and President of the Michigan Consultants Council and her team, who were organizing a Tri-Refresher for the final day of the Conference. We will look forward to having our 2022 Conference in District IIB, so they still have an opportunity to share their good ideas and showcase the great things going on in their District with you.

Finding ways to stay connected and feeling productive during these difficult times is important to all of us. As many of you know, MGC conducted our April Board meetings as Zoom meetings and we have also been using teleconferencing to continue our work as a board over the winter. I would encourage all of you to investigate these kinds of options as ways to stay engaged with your gardening friends. Consider different ways to find satisfaction in a club project even while maintaining safe distances: for those who sew – make masks, people will be needing them; consider planting your own Victory Garden – even if it's just a couple plants give the produce to a local food bank. There are people who will need the help this summer.

We will look at ways we might bring the Leadership Meetings which were planned through a series of Zoom Meetings, perhaps even some of our speakers and even the Tri-Refresher. We may even try to conduct a shortened Annual Business Meeting by teleconference or video meeting later in the summer. Stay tuned through the MGC website, our MGC Facebook page and notices through Constant Contact. Utilizing these ways to communicate are now even more important than ever.

Stay Home, Stay Safe, Stay Healthy!

Growing and sharing in gardening,  
Janet Hickman, President