

**Minutes**  
**Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.**  
**District IIB Steering Committee Meeting**  
**November 15, 2018**  
**Spartan Hall of Fame Cafe, East Lansing**

Present: Lynn Keelan, Barb Ketchum, Sue Wittick, Peggy Bryson

The meeting commenced at 1:50 p.m.

Barb discussed plans for the spring, 2019, District meeting. She has held space at the Okemos Conference Center on April 18 and has a number of volunteers to help with planning the event. Barb requested an updated list of past District meeting hosts.

Barb reported cancellation of the planned November 15 craft session due to low registration.

The group discussed location of various District assets. Nametag holders: Marlas has 20 for IIB Photographers; Sue has 20 each for IIB Youth Gardener and IIB Crafter groups; Barb has the remainder of the name tag holders. The Photographer, Crafter and Youth group tag holders also will be used as needed for District meetings. Lynn has three IIB banners, the IIB metal sign, and the photo display. Peggy has the IIB cashbox and IIB Photographers banner. Sue has the District printer, label printer, fundraising inventory, and garden signs. Lois has District flower show equipment.

Lynn reports that:

- The MGC President is seeking craft ideas for the MGC 2019 meeting in Traverse City.
- MGC is updating school curricula
- Loda Lake is updating its brochures. The plant patch will be available at the 2019 state meeting to those attending training.
- New District Director Charley Bohland is seeking an assistant.
- Monica Taylor will become MGC 1<sup>st</sup> VP in June.
- We should be sure to get photo releases for photos used in newsletters.
- Sue Soderberg will become MGC awards chair.
- MGC treasurer Bunny LaDuke is ill.
- Two District Director posts remain open for 2019-20: IIB and V.
- MGC has amended its policy for state meeting registrations: MGC will charge a \$20 fee for registrations received after the registration deadline. It will retain \$10 when refunding a registration cancelled before the registration deadline. There will be no refunds for registrations cancelled after the registration deadline.
- MGC has hired an event planner for events involving more than 35 participants and overnight accommodation.
- Janet Hickman announced District IIB is scheduled to host the 2020 MGC convention.
- The Webberville club will dedicate a Blue Star memorial on May 25

- The MGC state chaplain has resigned.
- The MGC Board is considering a policy of not allowing a club a share of state convention surplus if it hasn't participated in planning/executing the meeting.
- Fall 2018 District Meeting surpluses
  - IIA \$734
  - IV \$893
  - III \$1,579

We discussed the continued lack of a IIB District Director nominee, though several members have offered to assist the District in some capacity. Sue Wittick was tasked with scheduling a Saturday breakfast meeting in January at Coral Gables with those volunteers.

Lynn reported the need to appoint a IIB representative to the MGC nominating committee. Appointees must have participated on the MGC board in the past four years. The MGC immediate past-President will chair the committee and each District will have one representative and one alternate.

We expressed concern that the proposed \$180 registration fee for the 2019 MGC convention will discourage attendance.

Planners of the December 5 Kids in Toyland flower show are seeking to have 100 youth participate. Sue is trying to reach Jenny Bond regarding writing the design portion of the February orchid show schedule.

We discussed the importance of visiting and maintaining contact with District garden clubs, identifying several that have not had a IIB Steering Committee member visit. We decided to each take responsibility for contacting a group of clubs. Lynn: Hartland, Webberville, Brighton, and Mason. Sue: Williamston and Howell. Barb: Greater Lansing and Eaton Rapids. Peggy: Sherwood and Green Thumb.

Sue reported that Michigan Nature Association has recommended District plant signage to the Audubon Society. After discussion, we determined to offer the Society the same pricing as IIB garden clubs.

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 pm on January 15 at the Michigan Nature Association. We will meet 11:45 a.m. for lunch at the Chapbook Cafe in Schuler Books, Okemos.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30.

### **Action items**

Sue Schedule steering committee meeting in January with members who have expressed interest in helping the District.

Submitted by Peggy Bryson