

THE GARDENERS OF AMERICA
MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA



Newsletter

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Number 5



Dear Fellow Gardeners:

The National Convention was a smashing success! The Des Moines MGC and Mid-America Region pulled out all the stops to ensure a really fabulous meeting. We enjoyed wonderful hospitality; smooth running meetings, excellent speakers, delightful garden tours, fine food and a wealth of door prizes. Thank you Des Moines and Mid-America Region!

President's Message

To our delight, Katy Moss Warner, President of the American Horticultural Society, who told us much more about her organization and how our partnership will benefit both organizations, joined us for the first day. By the time you are reading this, you should have received the first copy of *The American Gardener* and our enclosed newsletter and have enjoyed reading both.

The next meeting is the National Board Meeting, for which I trust all our officers, past presidents, and many others will make plans to attend. It will be held November 4-6 at the Doubletree Hotel, Overland Park, KS. The registration for both the hotel and the meeting are in this issue of the newsletter and on the website, WWW.GARDENERSOFAMERICA.ORG. The Mo/Kan Region members will pick you up at the airport to bring you to the hotel, which is set in a woodland area. Mo/Kan has planned some good speakers and garden tours for your entertainment. We'll look forward to seeing you here.

Have you signed up to work on a national committee? President-elect, Bill Carney, will be hard at work finding chairmen and asking for volunteers for these 27 committees. It's fun and informative to be a member of these hard-working groups, which are the very heart of our organization. Please contact Bill or the national headquarters if you are willing to share your talents with us.

Frank Mitch and his Website committee have been working hard again, this time to bring us another sale on the website's Garden Shop. Be sure to check out the bargains to be found there. I expect they will also be in your newsletter. Speaking of the website, do you have any photos from the national convention that you would be willing to share with others via the website? Frank would be pleased to post them under convention summary. Also we would like to open an Environmental Issues and a Gardening From the Heart page. So if you have information, please send it to Frank.

It's hard to believe this is my last message to our wonderful members. The year has literally flown by, but we have several items to show for our efforts: the AHS partnership; a history of our organization, written by our 20 past presidents; and a new president's pin. I hope we can add that we are a stronger, more viable organization. Time will tell if we can actually grow our membership. The future is in OUR hands.

The AHS partnership is a recruiting tool like none we have ever had: we can quite literally offer members two organizations for the price of one. Since we have not raised dues to offset this membership, until we have to do so, gardeners can join TGOA/MGCA and receive a membership in the American Horticultural Society.

Some time ago, I asked our past presidents to write a history of our organization. Their deadline is the National Board Meeting in November and it will make very interesting reading to hear what these gentlemen have to say about their experiences. Joe Howland, our 1967 president, is the longest-ago serving president who is still alive. Joe is living in Reno, NV. and possesses a keen mind. He actually knew all the presidents back to 1932, when we began. It was Joe's suggestion

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that we ask the past presidents to write a history. Can't wait to receive them!

Thanks to many of our past presidents and the executive committee, the national president has a new pin of office. When I received the pin, it was pretty badly damaged, having had the enamel knocked off and the face of the pin was pretty thoroughly defaced. We designed a new one, tying the two logos together, and removed the diamonds from the old pin to place on the new one. Hope you have a chance to see the new pin. It's lovely and I owe a big debt of gratitude to those who helped pay for the new one. Thanks, Gentlemen.

There are so many people to thank you have helped me so much this year. I won't name them individually, for surely I would omit someone! Let it suffice to say thank you to all those who have played such vital roles in making this a banner year for me. I have thoroughly enjoyed being allowed to serve as your president. The best interests of TGOA/MGCA have always been and will always be the focus of my intentions and efforts.

Thank you and happy gardening.

Honey Barnekoff

2004 National President

ENDOWMENT & INVESTMENT

Westside Nursery School of Camillus New York has donated \$95 to the Gardening From The Heart program in memory of Mary Lou Switzer.

Men's Garden Club of Des Moines has donated \$1,000 to the Buildings & Grounds Committee for use at National Headquarters.

MEMBERSHIP

The following clubs have had a 10% or more increase in paid members from December 31, 2003.

AZ-NM REGION

Valley of the Sun Gardeners	20.29%
East Valley Gardeners Club	15.38%

BLUE RIDGE REGION

Spartanburg MGC	13.18%
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CENTRAL GREAT LAKES REGION

Men's & Women's GC of Findlay	86.96%
Fulton County Garden Club	11.11%
MGC of Youngstown	17.86%
Fort Wayne GOA	11.54%
At-Large-Central Great Lakes	23.53%

FLA-GA REGION

Marietta Gardeners Club	36.96%
Mountain Shadow Garden Club	18.52%

IL-WI REGION

Elgin GOA	20.00%
Dixon Area Garden Club	11.76%

MID-AMERICA REGION

Indianola MGC	13.51%
MGC of North Iowa	12.96%

MID-SOUTH REGION

Rankin County GOA	16.67%
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MO-KAN REGION

GOA of Overland Park	29.82%
Mission Springs GOA	10.00%

NORTHWEST REGION

Gallatin Gardeners Club	19.44%
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UPSTATE NEW YORK REGION

Tioga County MGC	28.00%
At-Large-Upstate NY	15.38%

The Web Site Is Growing by Frank Mitch, Web Master

<http://www.gardenersofamerica.org>
<http://www.gardenersofamerica.com>
<http://www.tgoa-mgca.org>

New password as of August 1: lily

We are concerned that there may have been some confusion when the password for the Members Only section was changed. The July/August Newsletter stated that the password had been changed. However we did not actually change the password until August 1. We waited for a while knowing that members on the West coast may not have received the Newsletter until the last week of July while some of us in the East received it during the second week of the month. We concluded that if the new password did not seem to work members would figure out that the old password might still do the job. We hope that members held onto their newsletter long enough to find the new password when the old one stopped working.

We do not intend to change the password again for many months, unless something unusual happens. Next time around we will be more specific about the change date. Keep reading this web site column and you will know the date. Thanks very much for bearing with us on these changes.

We welcome any suggestions, additions, or corrections submitted by users of the web site. These need to be sent to the TGOA/MGCA office because many of the documents on the web site originate there. We like for all to be singing from the same song sheet. Please send to: tgoasecy@dwx.com.

National Treasurer's Report

It is with great pleasure that I inform all of you that the June convention in Des Moines was a huge success. The Des Moines club even made a very respectable profit, and in keeping with custom, half of that profit was turned over to TGOA/MGCA. However, that money is not available for use for building & grounds expenditures. Last month I had a roofing contractor come out to the office to inspect our roof, which is approximately 35 years old, and showing its age in places. He said it would be wise to replace the roof next year. The cost will be several thousand dollars. Of course, I will get on than one bid. Thus, it is important that as many of you as possible (individuals & clubs) make a generous gift to TGOA for the Building & Grounds fund.

Steve Bush

Gardeners Gone to Rest



Therese R Schmeltzer of Rockford, IL
Robert J Kraus of Atlanta, GA
Chester Cundiff of Richardson, TX
Judson C Greene of Atlanta, GA
Francis Schoaf of Dixon, IL
Larry Hayes of St Louis, MO
Virgil Jones of Springdale, AR
J B Outlaw of Boise, ID
John Walls of Dallas, TX

Newsletter Submissions

Due to the limited space in our current newsletter, some submissions are simply too long to include. In order to best serve our members, the TGOA/MGCA newsletter is also published on the website. In addition to what is able to fit into this paper newsletter, we will feature additional articles and information from our members. Please be sure to check out the newsletter's online home on our website in the MEMBERS ONLY area. Please email or fax any articles related to gardening or Kahla Main.

TGOA/MGCA NATIONAL BUILDING & GROUNDS - CURRENT STATUS

It was a pleasure recently to show off our TGOA National Headquarters Grounds on the tour for those attending the TGOA National Convention in Des Moines.



Maintenance of the National Headquarters Grounds includes considerable amount of supplementary watering of an extensive amount of plantings during the summer months. This entails struggling with long lengths of hoses and resetting of sprinklers over several hours in attendance.

Initially, we would like to have an automatic sprinkler system connected to our present Sandpoint well on the grounds to service the annual flowerbeds.

Other improvements desired include the edging of four island planting beds with precast stone units. Another improvement envisioned is installation of precast stone pavers on the walkway between our recently completed majestic concrete steps and the gazebo.

We share with you a compilation of projected costs of desired improvements on the National Headquarters Grounds, and also a projected cost of critical maintenance needs on the National Headquarters Building. The first phase of an automatic sprinkler system was estimated at nearly \$4,000. The planter bed edging materials for four planter beds is estimated to be about \$1,000. The precast paver units for the walkway from the steps to the gazebo are estimated to be approximately \$800. Another item for the National Headquarters Building is roofing replacement; a critical maintenance item, which we are told must be done within the next year. We received an estimate of \$7600 for a Cedar Shake roof, which is what currently exists, and an estimate of \$4600 for a very good quality asphalt roof.



We are using this newsletter to appeal to TGOA/MGCA Clubs and TGOA/MGCA Individual members for contributions to offset expenses on the TGOA National Headquarters Building and Grounds improvements. We appreciate the past contributions when needs were expressed and desire your considerations on these current funding requests.

Submitted by Gene Den Hartog, Co-Chairman
TGOA/MGCA National Headquarters Building and
Grounds Committee

Photos by Des Moines Club Member Mark Riggs

The Gardeners of America / Men's Garden Clubs

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