

Wisconsin Master Gardener Association
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June 11, 2017
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Hello WIMGA Board members and Local Representatives,

How do I always manage to forget just how busy summer gets? The grass needs mowing, the vegetable garden needs weeding and then picking, flower beds need mulching and pruning, plus graduation parties and picnics...well, you know what I'm talking about! This month my family had an extra demand on our time; when the Didion explosion happened on May 31, my son and daughter-in-law who live next door, and are firefighters for Cambria, responded to the alarm at 11 pm. I was called upon for "Grandma" duty to stay at their house with the kids. I'm thankful I am close enough to help out, that more lives weren't lost and that the firefighters and emergency workers are recovering from the physical, mental and emotional stress of this tragedy.

Board members, we will have a **summer board meeting on Saturday, July 29, 2017 at the Hancock Ag Research Station at 10 am.** I think that people have enjoyed not having to bring a dish for a pot-luck lunch, and I hope that you all agree that simple is better. Cold cuts and sandwich fixings, deli salad, raw veggies, fruit or a cookie are fine! So are there one or two board members who would volunteer to purchase and bring the lunch for that day? WIMGA will reimburse your expenses. There will be about 15 of us.

At-large director, Jim Culbertson, has submitted his resignation from the WIMGA Board. I have appreciated Jim's steady involvement, his wit, and his attention to the bylaws and SOPs! Now we need to find a replacement: an at-large director does not need to be a local representative, and must be a certified MG as we all are. If you have a name to suggest, please contact that person to see if they are willing to serve, and send me, Jackie, Byron or Diane (WIMGA officers comprise the nominating committee) their name and contact information.

Jim was an important member of the Strategic Planning committee, so I would like to invite another board member to join Rose, Byron and me on that committee. We need to revisit our committee assignments overall since there were changes made to the number of standing committees and committee membership (board members now required to serve on at least one committee, not two) at the April Board meeting, and we have new board members who want to get on committees. Here's what I have; please let me know of errors!

- MG Advisory Committee (president, past president and 3 more appointed by president):
 - **Becky, Verne, John, Byron and Jackie**
- Conferences Committee (minimum 3 members):
 - **Byron, Becky, Diane**
- Executive Committee (officers):
 - **Becky, Jackie, Diane, Byron**
- Finance (and Education Grants) Committee (treasurer + 3 board members):
 - **Byron (chair), Verne, Doris, Jackie**
- Strategic Planning Committee (minimum 4 board members):
 - **Rose, Byron, Becky**
- Procedures Committee (minimum 3 board members):
 - **Lynn, Laura**, (Jim was chair of this committee)

Please note that local representatives are encouraged to be members of committees but committee chairs are board members. We have several strategic planning committees that also need your efforts.

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Several things have been accomplished in this first year of our strategic planning process:

- The "What is WIMGA?" marketing tool is on the website,
- The Mentoring program and mentor and mentee job descriptions are on website,
- Local Rep Pat Mersberger is working with Mike Maddox on developing the searchable database for locating initiatives and projects from local associations, through the Annual Accomplishment Report,
- The Finance committee is or will be working on developing new criteria for the educational grants,
- The Speaker's Bureau committee is still working on that project; the big question the Board will discuss in July is what and how much can we, as a totally volunteer organization, realistically take on?
- The website is a work in progress; there are still some "hiccups" in formatting, missing information, and to my chagrin, misspelled names. However, you have been great at finding errors and submitting them through the "Contact Us" link—please continue to do so! If you haven't looked at the WIMGA website recently, please do so: <https://wimga.org/>
- We appreciate your suggestions for improvements, needed information, and we need photos of MGVs in action.



The Strategic Planning Committee will be bringing the 3-year plan back to the Board at our July meeting for more development of activities for years two and three. I anticipate that at our fall face-to-face meeting, local representatives will have a chance to join these subcommittees and help work on the future of WIMGA.

The Washington County MGs are busy planning this year's WIMGA conference, Masters at the Prairie, set for Friday and Saturday, October 13-14 in West Bend WI. There will not be an online registration process this year, but the registration form and information about the conference is on their website at:

<http://wcmastergardeners.com/conference-2017/>

You need to click on the link for the conference brochure, print and fill it out, and then mail with your check to Byron (address on form). There are a variety of options for one or both days. It's a beautiful location, there are nearby hotels (information on booking rooms is also on the conference website) and they have a great variety of speakers and topics lined up: something for everyone!

In an effort to conserve your time and travel on another day, WIMGA will have its' fall face-to-face Board and Local Representatives meeting in conjunction with the conference. Friday October 13 we will meet during the day at the Prairie Center, the same location as the conference. I realize that for some of you this will mean taking a day off of work to attend, but I hope the benefit of not having to give up another Saturday will be worth it to you. Lunch will be provided, and we will finish in time for you to go to your hotel and check in, then return to the Prairie Center for dinner and the WIMGA annual meeting, before the evening speakers.

Our annual meeting is held in conjunction with the WIMGA conference. This year, it will be from 5:00-5:45 pm on Friday, October 13 so we will need to be very efficient with our time and required business! In 2018, the conference will be in Eau Claire on September 21-22. That means that by this August 1, we should receive applications from groups who would like to be considered for hosting the WIMGA conference in 2019!! There is a file on the website <https://wimga.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Operating-Guidelines-for-WIMGA-Conferences-1.pdf> to help you consider hosting the meeting. I love that this conference moves around the state and that we often get to see MG projects and specialties of their region.

Your assignment now: give us feedback on the website, consider hosting the 2019 conference, consider which committees you would like to join, brainstorm a candidate for At-large Director, and offer to organize lunch for July 29. (First come, first served on that last item!)

As always, don't hesitate to contact me with questions or for clarifications. Thanks for the work you do for WIMGA—volunteers are really special people!

Becky Gutzman