

**October 24, 2023 Minutes**  
**Milwaukee District Garden Clubs**  
**Fall District Meeting & VIP Luncheon**  
**125 56<sup>th</sup> Street, Unit 102,**  
**Kenosha, WI 53140**

Meeting called to order at 9:37 am by Diane Olsen.  
Since no flag was available, there was not a pledge of allegiance.  
Appointment of Committee to approve minutes: Marsha Caporasa & Kerry Krokus

**Introduction of Guests:**

Kitty Larsen, Previous State President  
Lynn Ehnert, Regional Director  
Judy Newman  
Laura Skoff, Past State President  
Jan Blooming, State Newsletter  
Nancy Gregory, Current 2nd Level State Level Director

Previous meeting minutes from fall meeting (October 2022) had been circulated, corrected by committee, and filed electronically.

**Officer Reports**

**Interim District Director's Project – Diane Olsen**

Planned Milwaukee district's fall meeting and a fundraiser for the May 2024 convention. Diane missed the State Meeting since she was out of state. She did attend the Potpourri plant sale, the Kenosha Conservancy, Jersey garden (Bonjour) and the Milwaukee Garden Club's Open Days; Diane also coordinated this meeting.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Director - Marsha Caporasa**

Arranged the Fall District Meeting, the location and speaker. It was a learning experience and fun. She's learning about the Milwaukee County Park System.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Director – Nicholas Lemus**

Held the first fundraiser for the 2024 Convention.  
31 people participated in the "Living Frame" workshop at Boerner Botanical Gardens. Led by Florist, Nancy Cody, participants made a framed succulent garden and floral pumpkin arrangement. Net proceeds \$525.01.

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Other fundraisers will be planned.

Treasurer – Kerry Krokus

Current & YTD balance sheet - \$51,536 combined (125 restricted and non-restricted accounts), Scholarship fund balance is \$564.

Balance sheet will be sent to Club Presidents.

Profit & Loss Statement includes profit from the Living Art workshop, interest from savings account, money market accounts, and membership fees. A \$1,456 Gross Profit.

A question was asked if the MDGC planned to use the money that is not restricted. That money is invested in CDs that typically rolls over. \$585 is budgeted to the convention. \$175 is also allocated to creating a portable district banner with the district's new logo for the convention.

Corresponding Secretary – Norma McReynolds

Has upgraded and updated the website, MilwaukeeDistrictGardenClubs.org. It allows people to register, RSVP and pay for events. There are small fees to register online which are passed on to registrants. *Discussion – the district is encouraged to be upfront about the added fees to online registration. No decision reached.*

A spreadsheet is created with names of people who register and pay online. A “square” credit card reader is also available.

Norma asked what information the clubs would want on the website. The 2024 Convention will be added to the website.

Money raised from the 2024 convention goes to WGCF.

Corresponding Secretary – Norma McReynolds

Diane acknowledged each piece of mail that had been received.

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Recording Secretary – Janet Wintersberger

The executive committee met in early July to plan the October meeting, establish criteria, and preliminarily discuss the convention.

Parliamentarian – Kitty Larkin

A quorum had not been confirmed at the start of the meeting. 31 people signed in, and the Interim District Director stated, “I do declare a quorum of district members.”

Program – Pam Holy, President of Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund

**Lunch**

The Four Seasons Garden Club provided today’s table decorations

**New Business**

**Committee Reports**

**Director’s Project** – Diane Olsen

MDGC participated in the Hank Aaron Memorial Trail walk/run. \$809 was raised for the Blue Star Marker at the Trail.

**Scholarship Chairman** – Kerry Krokus

There is \$564 available in the passbook for a scholarship. It was moved, seconded, and approved that \$500 should be awarded for 2024. All but one person agreed.

Add scholarship information to the website, a donation form (noting that contributions are not tax deductible\*) and an application form.

\*Use wording like the state form. Give an update at the next meeting.

**Habitat for Humanity** – Judy Newman

Judy thanked the Greater Milwaukee Garden Club for its help. 120 families were served during the 2 ½ hour event. Six carloads of plants were distributed to other non-profits.

**WGC Historian** – Judy Newman

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Would like a history of individual clubs and what each has accomplished.

**Blue Star Marker – Nancy Gregory**

With help from the VA Hospital groundskeeper & IBEW members, three Town and Country Garden Club members planted flowers at the Blue Star marker.

Kenosha Garden Club would also like a Blue Star Marker.

**Lynn Ehnert – Central Region (7 states)**

Tree Planting Extravaganza

Garden Clubs in the region are planting native and non-native trees.

**Diane Olsen (for Cheryl Lausten) - Farmers' Market**

Let Cheryl know before May 1, the month your club would like to staff a booth at Brookfield Farmers' Market (May-Oct).

**2024 WGCF Convention, *Serendipity*, May 19-21**

**Co-chairs Judy Newman & Kitty Larkin**

Many opportunities for volunteers; MDGC volunteers are collecting registrations.

Speakers: Sunday dinner – Bronze Award

Monday dinner – Virginia Small

Tues dinner – Doug Yager

6 breakout sessions

January 1 next Newsletter

The state has requested tisket /tasket baskets for the convention.

State Club of the Year Award – nominations by December 1  
(a financial award)

**Ikebana – Laurie Wareham**

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Nov 7 Lecture at Havenwoods 9:45 a.m. – Kaye Vosburgh, Riji.  
Demonstrator and author

### **Club Reports**

**Racine Garden Club** – Darlene Otwaska

Report is attached

**Four Seasons Garden Club** - Karen Taskonis

Garden Maintenance year-round at Kemper Center, two \$1500 scholarships to Gateway Technical Institute and \$1500 to the Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund.

**Fox Point Garden Club** – Barbara White

23 members; Planting natives on boulevard. Neighbors volunteered to water.

**Garden Club of Greater Milwaukee** – Nancy Cody

Report is attached

**Potpourri Garden Club**

Submitted a grant application.

**MDGC** – Diane Olsen

Soliciting donations from Jung Seeds, Milorganite, Diggers Hotline, etc. for conference.

**VIP Awards** – Kerry Krokus

Four garden clubs recognized members for their devoted service.

Receiving VIP awards this year are **Carol Jackson** of Milwaukee Ikebana, Chapter #22, **Ann Luba** of Garden Club of Greater Milwaukee, **Terry Modory** of Four Seasons Garden Club and **Cheryl Booth** of Fox Point Garden Club.

**Silent Auction** -

Items raised \$105.

Meeting closed at 1:54 pm

**New Business** (not covered)

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Appointment of Chairman and committee members  
Nominating Chairman/Committee  
Scholarship Chairman/Committee – Kerry Krokus

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Wintersberger, Recording Secretary

## Racine Garden Club

### Introduction

Inviting you to attend our biennial Summer Garden Tour on July 14. Next year's tour will present 7 beautiful gardens for viewing.

This tour is our major fund raiser which provides funds to make our yearly donations.

### We donate:

- \$3000 a year to Gateway Technical College for Horticultural students.
- \$200.00 a year for "Make a Difference Day" This year it was presented to the Racine Urban Garden Network who has built 10 gardens through out the city with a total of 300 raised garden plots to rent. They also provide educational meetings.

Other yearly donations go to:

- Racine Food Bank "Garden of Giving" which is run by Master Gardeners
- Chiwaukee Prairie
- Hawthorne Hollow Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum

Racine Garden Club is in charge of the goodie bags for the State Convention in May. We are looking for donations for those bags. We have an estimate of 100 bags, but they do not all have to be the same. Please contact me (Darlene Otwaska [darotw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:darotw@sbcglobal.net)) if you can help.

## Garden Club of Greater Milwaukee

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- We are currently at 200 members, our maximum capacity. We have a waitlist.
- We meet monthly from September to June at the Woman’s Club of Milwaukee. Our first two meetings with guest speakers attracted more than 100 at each meeting. During the summer we host garden tours, visit public and private gardens, and organize other “pop-up” events as opportunities arise. Our goals are to host a variety of events that appeal to as many members as possible. Upcoming events include a cooking demo at a local restaurant, a floral design workshop, and a meeting of our newly formed book group.
- Our community service projects are volunteering at Alice’s Garden, Lakeshore State Park and local public schools including Riley School, a public city of Milwaukee grade school. We are looking forward to a project with Cudahy High School. We also enjoy working at the Habitat for Humanity event and host the container planting project.
- We have received some generous donations now that we are a non-profit corporation. This has enabled us to increase our scholarship budget threefold to \$15K.
- We look forward to volunteering at the upcoming state convention and will name a coordinator from our club to recruit volunteers.
- We work with Garden Conservancy to host tours for the public at local private gardens. We typically have up to 70 volunteers from our club that work on the event. It is our largest fundraiser. In 2024, the event will be August 10-11.