

THE MICHIGAN FARM & GARDEN FOUNDATION, INC. AKA
MICHIGAN DIVISION OF THE WOMAN'S NATIONAL FARM AND GARDEN
ASSOCIATION, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2019

LOCATION: Troy Historic Village, Troy, MI

Welcome

Present: Mary Schwark, Marcia Mandell, Lenore Treba, Pat Brown, Vicki Guntenaar, Sheila Kneeshaw, Charlotte Westbrook, Jo Sillanpaa, Susan Chambers

Not present: Mary Lynne Moellering

Meeting called to order at 11:15 a.m. A quorum was determined.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

NEW BUSINESS

1. Nominating Committee: Susan Chambers will chair the nominating committee. She will engage other members to join her committee. Possible replacements and recommendations were discussed. Vicki Guntenaar agreed to be Secretary for a new term and Lenore Treba and Pat Brown agreed to another term as Charitable Treasurer and MI Division Treasurer respectively.
2. Proposed \$500 Trumpeter level joint donation of MI DIV board members: Mary asked that if any board members were interested in making either a \$50 or \$62.50 donation to complete the funding for a second bench behind the Belle Isle Conservatory send her an email if you wish to participate. Send checks to Pat Brown.
3. D4D table arrangements: We have commitments from Trailwood and Troy Garden Clubs so far. At the 2/1/19 committee meeting, branch representatives present were asked and agreed to reach out to their own branches for arrangements. There are specific specs for the arrangements to pass along to those participating. A brief discussion regarding the new event seating was also addressed.
4. Board Development Activity in 2019: Post workshop survey results were discussed from 8/20/18. Valuable feedback was obtained on various topics MI DIV might offer with enough interest. Mary Schwark will continue to organize these special events.
5. MI DIV & MI 4-H Foundation: A discussion began on our relationship with 4-H moving forward. With Sheila Kneeshaw becoming MI DIV President as well as 2nd VP of 4-H, she will do her best to keep the two roles separated. Her priority however is to WNF&GA and MI DIV.
6. National Meeting in Toronto: Mary Schwark shared what information she had as of this meeting. There is no registration form yet. There is a meeting upcoming to discuss details. There is a Toronto visit happening now. Information should be coming out in the March newsletter titled Spring National Meeting.

7. MI DIV Member-at-Large Form: The new application form was approved.

OFFICER & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mary Schwark, President

Past visits to branches: 10/1/18 – Clarkston; 10/9/18 Rochester; 12/4/18 - Trenton and 12/11/18 - Northville Garden Club (both with Jo Sillanpaa).

Mary continued to voice her concerns about messages not being distributed by presidents to branch members.

Mary provided a summary of current MI DIV board of directors meeting dates and locations since 5/16/17 installation.

6/27/17	Troy Historic Village
8/9/17	Executive Board
10/5/17	The Detroit Zoo
3/1/18	Steve and Rocky's, Novi
4/30/18	Troy Historic Village
8/17/18	Oakland University Library, Rochester
2/4/19	Troy Historic Village

There were also various conference calls.

Mary provided a summary of MI DIV/MI 4-H Foundation interactions and documents since 1/6/2018.

8. Amendment signed 9/26/18 at Saginaw Fall Council Meeting did not get rid of the original Endowment. The original Endowment still exists, but IFYE has been replaced by Michigan 4-H Youth, in support of their study and travel abroad. The Endowment states that 4-H decides how funds will be distributed.
9. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed by Michigan Division (MI DIV) and the Michigan 4-H Foundation (M4-HF) on 1/15/19. The MOA was created to describe the terms and conditions under which a newly-created Expendable Gift Agreement's Scholarship Fund (unallocated income generated primarily by International Teas since 2009) will be administered by the M4-HF with consultation by MI DIV board members.
10. In addition, funds* that were inadvertently deposited in wrong account have now been moved and all monies are accounted for. (*Port Huron gift of \$5000.00)

Mary will continue as editor of our newsletter.

Grand Marais Branch- Mary received a letter from President Arlene Cobau regarding withdrawal of their branch from Michigan Division. A letter of disposition of funds in their treasury must be received before branch can withdraw. (The Grand Marais Branch has not dissolved.) Mary will send a letter to Arlene stating that fact and providing her the language in our by-laws of this requirement.

Pat Brown, MI Division Treasurer

Pat reported that there is a discrepancy in the year-end report that needs to be resolved. She will forward report to board members as soon as it is finished.

Lenore Treba, Charitable Foundation Treasurer

Lenore presented Charitable Reports. Reports were accepted as presented. They will be placed on file.

Lenore also included changes to show the four NEW pillars for donations to the WNF&GA Michigan Division Endowment (created with 4-H in 2007).

She has also provided an updated CHARITABLE DONATIONS document dated October 5, 2018.

Sheila Kneeshaw, 1st Vice President

Spring Council 2019 will be hosted by the Warren Branch. It will be held at The Gazebo. Date: May 22, 2018. Guest speaker will be Ann Cline of the Iris Society.

Sheila is still requesting Branch volunteers as well as a venue for the Fall Council 2019 meeting.

A discussion started regarding the International Tea 2019. Now that our Expendable Gift Agreement with M4-HF is secure, we can begin raising funds in support of scholarships for Michigan 4-H participants traveling to countries outside of the United States. Mary Schwark made the suggestion that we host "several" Tea's at multiple venues on the same day covering a wide area of metro Detroit and beyond to accommodate our MI DIV branch locations. Several board members will research various venues and report back to Mary Schwark within the next few weeks.

Marcia Mandell, 2nd Vice President

Branch Recognition Program: There were no recognitions received yet as of this meeting.

There was no update from Joette Kunse for the Speaker's Bureau.

Cheryl Malin, MI DIV Registrar

Cheryl Malin provided her report on membership. The current membership number as of February 4, 2019 is 1253 members including six members-at-large. There were 57 members removed since August 18, 2018.

Cheryl as well as the whole MI DIV board have been pushing the “go green” initiative to receive your newsletters electronically rather than a printed copy through the mail. As of August 30, 2018, 172 members were receiving their newsletters electronically. As of February 2, 2019 that number rose to 457. Cheryl has signed up 285 members since last August. Kudos to the Rochester branch. 97 of those making the switch were from this branch.

National Delegates, Jo Sillanpaa and Charlotte Westbrook

No report. Toronto details are still in the works.

Marketing & Promotion of Michigan Division

This is what MI Division is doing for you. There was no discussion around this topic at this meeting. This is an ongoing initiative for all board members.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11. Incentives

There is an ongoing concern regarding the cost of producing and mailing paper copies of the newsletter. The Board continues to encourage members to receive newsletters online. These funds could become available for programming and/or scholarships, etc. See Cheryl Malin’s report in these minutes. We are moving in the right direction.

12. Reciprocity

Reciprocity is an attempt to make connections between and among branches so that, if a branch needs staffing help for a special event, they could reach out to other branches. Continue to encourage branches who need help to solve membership staffing problems. Mary will address this in her president’s column in the spring newsletter.

3. Organization Positions/Committees

Promotion & Growth chairperson - OPEN

Website manager – Sally Edwards; Kathleen Krasity

Newsletter editor – Mary Schwark (spring edition should arrive by 3/10/19)

Advertising (marketing & promotion of MI DIV – all board members)

Historian – OPEN (Terry LaBeau , Trailwood - need an update)

Philanthropy chairperson – OPEN

Member Education chairperson – OPEN (inactive 2015-2018)

4. Savings account - We need to make more on our money. A committee was formed to discuss options on making more for our money. This committee includes Lenore Treba, Pat Brown and Mary Schwark. Mary is still working to set this up.

5. Strategic Planning - A committee was formed including Sheila Kneeshaw, Vicki Guntenaar, Mary Schwark, Marcia Mandell, Mary Lynne Moellering and Jo Sillanpaa. We will work to identify some meeting dates. Mary working to set this up.

6. Branch daffodil projects- Continue to encourage branches to begin daffodil projects in their own communities and report them to MI DIV or report on their already-existing daffodil projects. Mary will be adding daffodil icons to branches that have individual branch projects in the next newsletter. If there are any public plantings of daffodils in your cities, let her know.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Board meeting will be April 22, 2019. Time and place TBD. This will be our last meeting before the Spring Council Meeting.

Adjourned at 2:23 pm

Submitted by Vicki Guntenaar
Interim Michigan Division Secretary

"The reports which were submitted by officers and other board members were edited only for the purpose of correct spelling, correct punctuation and/or clarification of meaning. There was no correction of substance."