



## **MGSOC Board Meeting Minutes: January 13, 2025**

### **dinner meeting**

#### **Executive Board Officers:**

Present: E. Lardner, C. Smith, S. Bolle, M. Truza, L. Propst, J. Fromm

Absent: D. Foster

#### **Committee Chairs:**

Present: B. Peters, K. Sobanski, A. Koran, J. Bird, C. Roney, J. Grissom

Absent: D. Brown, N. Schmid

#### **Others Present:**

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m.

#### **EXECUTIVE REPORTS:**

PRESIDENT:

Emily Lardner reported:

- E. Lardner talked about last year's goals:
  1. Board meetings were generally kept to under 1.50 hours in length.
  2. Included a social aspect to the board meetings by staying on zoom to chat after the meeting.
  3. Ice breakers at the general meetings were a hit.
  4. We plan to introduce QR codes to the general membership meetings and this will happen at a future time.
  5. We did "bring a gardening friend" and waived the guest fee. This has been discontinued for the time being.
- E. Lardner discussed the attendance requirements for MGSOC board (6.07) and committee members (8.05) per the MGSOC bylaws. 75% attendance is required at general meetings.
- The regularly scheduled May board meeting will be rescheduled for June 2, 2025.
- Check your email address for Chuck Truza. [ctruza@comcast.net](mailto:ctruza@comcast.net).
- The MGSOC executive board approved J. Fromm as MGSOC secretary per the bylaws (7.02).

- Consideration for moving the MGSOC general membership meetings to the third Wednesday of each month for 2026 was discussed.
- C. Smith agreed to investigate using the Troy community Center for a future meeting place. He noted that the cost may be waived if there are mostly Troy residents attending.
- A meeting for February 3, 2025 is scheduled to discuss the MGSOC budget and train for using google drive [MGSOCboard@gmail.com](mailto:MGSOCboard@gmail.com) .
- E. Lardner briefly went over the MGSOC budget. We talked about our financial loss for the year. J. Fromm noted that we discontinued grants and scholarships due to our lack of fundraising for our society since Covid. B. Peters noted that one of the conference speakers is going to waive her fee and have MGSOC donate it to a horticultural educational organization of their choosing.
- Day trips and tours were discussed. A. Koran and E. Lardner have planned 3 upcoming trips: John Blair, Kathy Golden, and Ed Blondin. A person is needed to volunteer to organize these events. S. Bolle noted that the Troy Garden Club would like to partner with us on the trip to John Blair and that they may do most of the organizing. We should still have an unused bus deposit for 2020. We need to investigate our records to find out what bus company we may have an unused bus deposit with.
- E. Lardner and A. Koran presented two future fundraiser ideas. The first being a coupon book with a limited amount printed which would include discounts from local businesses. S. Bolle shared her experience with designing, printing and selling coupon books for GM. This would be a time-consuming project for the future. The second idea was a calendar with important MGSOC dates and other dates of interest.
- E. Lardner noted that we need a new fundraising chairperson. She talked about people we could get to be involved in MGSOC.
- E. Lardner asked if Alan could do a short 25-minute talk promoting Bowers Farm at the March or April general meeting.

SECRETARY:

Julie Fromm reported:

- **S. Bolle made a motion to approve November 18, 2024, MGSOC board meeting minutes with revisions. J. Grissom seconded this motion. Motion carried.**
- J. Fromm talked about a Wrap up blurb for S. Bolle to eblast after our general membership meetings.



**FINANCE:**

Dianah Foster absent with report:

- The 5/3 checking account balances for the primary elite checking and the Flourish account were reported.

**1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT:**

Craig Smith reported:

- C. Smith reported that Melanie Fuhrmann agreed to send out in the EMG announcements information about the MGSOC and the benefits for its members.
- C. Smith volunteered to contact past MGSOC members to find out why they left the membership and if they were interested in coming back. J. Bird needs to supply the list and J. Fromm agreed to help.
- C. Smith suggested we have a summertime MGSOC get together.
- C. Smith reported that he did start a financial review with D. Foster.

**2<sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT:**

Sally Bolle reported:

- Nothing new to report.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**2025 MG CONFERENCE:**

Betty Peters reported:

- B. Peters reported that registration is open for the MGSOC 2025 conference.
- The speakers include: Bob Iames, Charlie Nardozi , Stacy Hirvela and Susan Martin.
- Some of the speakers will be staying with family and will not require hotel accommodation, which will save money from the budget.
- The contract with Oakland University will be finalized and signed soon.
- B. Peters and J. Bird worked on the conference budget and have plugged in numbers for all the teams.
- The raffle license application will be paid for and sent in soon.
- The next conference meeting on Zoom is scheduled for 01/28/2025.
- There is seating for 336 in the conference room. The budget is set for 300 attendees.
- We will not be selling books this year.

**FUNDRAISING:**

Denise Brown absent with report:



- S. Bolle reported that D. Brown suggested we split fundraising and merchandising into separate committees.
- D. Brown will be available to sell merchandise at the MGSOC 2025 conference and agreed to help with the silent auction.
- E. Lardner revisited the fact that D. Brown should not be buying any new merchandise and only selling what we have in stock to deplete our inventory.

HOSPITALITY:

Kathy Sobanski reported:

- K. Sobanski noted that we have plenty of water left from the holiday party.

DOOR PRIZE & RAFFLE COORDINATOR:

Janie Grissom reported:

- Nothing new to report.

EDUCATION:

Amanda Koran reported:

- A. Koran reported that all the speakers are booked for 2025 except November.

MEMBERSHIP/ELECTIONS:

Julie Bird reported:

- J. Bird reported that she would like someone to help her at the welcome table.
- E. Lardner would like to announce this at the general meeting.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

Cecily Roney reported:

- C. Roney will make an announcement at the next general meeting about what she does as the MGSOC corresponding secretary and how to contact her.
- C. Roney will begin to report who she sends cards to as part of her report.

BOWERS FARM:

Nancy Schmid absent:

- Nothing new to report.

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS:

Julie Fromm reported:

- Budget for 2025 grants and scholarships is tabled until the February meeting.

TRIPS & TOURS:

Chair to be determined:

- E. Lardner and A. Koran reported (details in the President's report).

Marketing & Communications:

Sally Bolle reported:



- S. Bolle has been busy working on the marketing materials for the MGSOC 2025 conference.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- No old business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- No new business.

**Motion:** Adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Required hours: 1.75.

Next Meeting: March 03, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. zoom

- All reports are available from the Secretary. Requests must be made in writing. These minutes will be posted on our website, but without financial information. They may also be edited for content.
- Website: [www.mgsoc.org](http://www.mgsoc.org).