



MGSOC General Meeting, Troy Community Center: 08-11-2026

Business Meeting:

President Craig Smith called the meeting to order at 6:25pm and welcomed everyone, including four new members who attending tonight's meeting: Ruthann Bajorek, Patricia Baum, Linda Smith, and Robin Zolman.

President's Report (Craig Smith):

- The MGSOC Marketplace (aka "The Garage Sale") was held at Telly's July 18 & 19. Eight new members to the Society signed up at this event. Overall, even with the heat and forest fire smoke, it was well attended and fun.
- Craig noted that MGSOC is still assisting Hana's Garden with renovations. Two EMGs from the Oxford area are helping to organize scheduled work days. The site is an approved MSUE site #4878 to obtain MG volunteer hours. Contact Craig if you are interested in volunteering there or have questions about the site.
- MSUE EMG Appreciation & Recognition dinner is **August 13 at Glen Oaks Country Club**, 30500 13 Mile Road, Farmington, MI. Registration is now closed.
- The Board continues to work on Scholarship and Grant criteria. Besides Foundations of Gardening (FOG) reimbursement, we are encouraging local community gardens to submit grant applications. Please see website: [MGSOC-2026-Grant-Application.pdf](#) for a 2026 application.
- Craig encouraged members to keep up with entering volunteer & education hours in Volunteer Central, as we approach the end of this year's gardening season, it's critical you get those hours in sooner than later.

Vice-President's Report (Sally Bolle): Several members helped retrieve about 40 totes full of MGSOC merchandise and then did a complete inventory of items. Currently, we are running the "store" out of Sally's basement and have made quite a dent with merchandise sold at the Garage Sale (~\$10,000 sales and now down to 20 totes!). Dianah re-inventoried remaining items and will be bringing an inventory sheet to our meetings if you'd like to peruse and purchase items. Additionally, you can contact Sally and arrange a mutually agreeable time for you visit her basement and shop. We continue our efforts to move all merchandise to an on-line store.

Treasurer's Report (Dianah Foster): Dianah reported that our net income for the Garage Sale was ~ \$4300. Our current bank balances are healthy due to the Garage Sale, the Spring Conference, and merchandise sales. Please contact Dianah directly if you have specific questions about our current budget.

Secretary's Report (Steve Smith): Dianah and Steve are working on on-line merchandise store, more to follow as things come together.

Educational Conference (Betty Peters): Final income & expenses have been tallied and we made \$5200 from the conference. Betty asked for a couple new leads for Door Prizes and Advance Registration-Eventbrite coordination. We are looking to establish a mentoring program so new leads can work with more experienced members, please reach out to Betty for more information. 2027 Conference planning will start in September. Next year's conference is scheduled for April 24, 2027 at the same place, Oakland University.

Membership (Julie Bird): Several new associate and trainee members have joined; we are now at 101 members!

Hospitality (Kathy Sobanski): Signup sheet is being passed around. As always, please remember to email Kathy SobanskiK@yahoo.com if you are bringing food to our meeting. We are starting to think about our holiday party, please reach out to Kathy if you have ideas for the party or proposed venues.



Corresponding Secretary (Cecily Roney): Nothing to report, please reach out if you know a member is need of a get-well card or just some general encouragement. ●

Bowers Farm-Discovery Oaks Park (Nancy Schmid): Nancy outlined several changes at Bowers. Oakland County Parks is now actively on site looking at changes / improvements to be done. A sidewalk around Barton Farm House has been removed, we'll be looking at planting the vacant space. Still looking for Docents to help with Farm after Five at Open Barn, Friday evening 5-9pm. Over the Labor Day weekend, Friday 9-4 through Monday 9-7, Bowers will host a booth at each day from 11am-6pm at Arts, Beats, and Eats. We need volunteers to staff shifts at the booth; a SignUp Genius form is currently being created. Will push out information in an email blast when available. Volunteers will get a free day pass to attend the festival on a non-worked day!!

MSU Extension Report (Melanie Fuhrmann): No report. Melanie's contact info: furhma19@msu.edu Sherry Riedel's contact info: riedels2@msu.edu

Meeting ended at 6:55pm

PRESENTATION: Amanda Koran introduced John Keast who spoke on the "Straw Bale Gardening". More information can be found at www.strawbalegardens.com

WELCOME NEW and RENEWING MEMBERS:

● Ruthann Bajorek, Lise Barrera, Patricia Baum, Amy Buzinski, Mark Klepinger, ●

Dorothy McLaren, Rebecca Mix, Ann Rzepka, Linda Smith, Robin Zolman

WE ARE NOW 101 MEMBERS STRONG!!

IMPORTANT DATE REMINDERS, MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

August 13, 2026: MSUE EMG Banquet at Glen Oak Country Club, Farmington Hills.

Submitted, Steve Smith, MGSOC Secretary