



Board Meeting Minutes October 6, 2026

EXECUTIVE BOARD					
Craig Smith, President	✓			Sally Bolle, Vice President	✓
Steve Smith, Secretary	✓			Dianah Foster, Treasurer	✓
COMMITTEE CHAIRS					
Julie Bird	✓			Karol Carter	
Janie Grissom	exc	Amanda Koran	✓	Betty Peters	✓
Cecily Roney	exc	Nancy Schmid	✓	Kathy Sobanski	✓
GUESTS:					
Margy Truza	exc	Lucy Propst	✓		

Subject		Action
A.	Approval of Previous minutes	Minutes from September 01 , 2026 were approved electronically and have been posted to MGSOC Website
B.	Call to Order & Conflict of Interest Review	Craig called the meeting to order at 18:30, no one mentioned any new potential conflicts
C.	Board Reports	
	President	Joint Macomb Activities: Jean Peasley, Macomb President has approached Craig about some possible joint ventures and sharing of resources with MGSOC. We are scheduling a joint Oakland-Macomb Board meeting to meet/greet and see where we may join forces for trips, shared fund raising, and other activities. Melanie Fuhmann & David Lowenstein, the

No further action needed

Craig will follow up and report back to the Board.

Subject		Action
	two county EMG coordinators are also invited. Potential dates are 11-4 or 11-12, more to come as plans come together. - Western Wayne County Master Gardeners Society members: Several WWCMGS members have approached Craig about joining / attending MGSOC meetings / activities. It was felt that while EMGs are encouraged to join & support their local county societies, there is nothing preventing them from joining other county societies or participating in their events. - Christmas Party: A few members will visit Telly's to look at space and room setup. It was noted that we have a table/chair credit from Rochester Rentals from last year's party. Dianah will double check the amount. It was noted we'd probably need 8-10 tables of 8 for members and their guests and will need some chairs (Telly's has 50). Kathy has red/green table cloths left from last year. Kathy will ask a group to assist in planning, see HOSPITALITY below. - Scholarship requirements: Craig asked the Board to help define the requirements for the EMG Scholarship. Discussion around participation in "approved" events for hours, meeting attendance, and number of scholarships we'd award annually. How do we track hours of approved projects? How to track attendance? It was felt that about 10 scholarships (~ \$3000 annually) would be a good number to start with. - Scholarship applicants must: Join the MSGOC as an active member / trainee, volunteer in 20 hours of MGSOC approved projects, and attend 50% of our general meetings. MOTION: Approve criteria of society membership, 20 hours of MGSOC approved projects, 50% general meeting attendance. Betty/Amanda motioned/seconded. All in favor. MOTION PASSED - Fund Raising Ideas: Craig had several fund raising ideas, see FUNDRAISING below.	Craig will schedule a meeting at Telly's to look at space, email an invite to those interested. Steve offered to create a criteria checklist and circulate back to Board for approval / review
	Vice President	Nothing to report
	Treasurer	Dianah reported positive balances in our accounts. Please contact Dianah directly if you would like more specific information. A new credit card was received as the old one had expired. Discussion around donation recognition and letters. Dianah stated a donation letter with tax id should be issued for any donation ≥ \$100. The Board felt that a thank you note should be sent for any sized donation. Dianah will issue letters as needed & work with Cecily for thank you notes.

Subject			Action
	Secretary	Steve sent an email to Sarah Rautio, EMG State Director for assistance in identifying a MSU approved e-store for branded merchandise. We are looking to switch from a physical inventory model (costly overhead and man-hours) to an e-store model where members could directly order individual items based on approved colors, logos, and sizes. MGSOC would no longer maintain an inventory but would receive a percentage of profit for each item sold through the store.	Steve will update the Board as more information becomes available.
D.	Committee Reports		
	Conference	Betty confirmed that three speakers have been secured for the 2027 Conference. Craig noted he had six confirmed vendors and several others still considering. Dianah updated the Vendor application to include a lunch option for the vendors. It was noted that the free plant give-a-way at Conference end was difficult to manage and perhaps garden tools might be easier. Site and Date: Oakland University April 24, 2027	The Conference Committee will continue to work on planning.
	Bowers Farm Teams	Nothing to report	
	Corresponding Secretary	Excused, nothing to report	
	Door Prize & Raffle	Excused, nothing to report	
	Fundraising	Craig presented some additional ideas for fund raising: - Garage Sale (aka “The Marketplace”): 2026 event was very successful, we are working to secure dates for 2027 event, may form ad-hoc to coordinate. Everyone agreed MGSOC should hold this event again. - Spring Plant Sale: Craig has secured a donation of plants from Proven Winners to hold a MGSOC Spring Plant Sale. He is working with other growers for additional plant donations. Potential date / location would be the Pavillion located next to the Troy Community Center in early to mid-May. It was noted we need to carefully choose the date as many events/sales happen in May as the gardening season starts. - Golf Outing-Fund Raiser: Craig suggested the MGSOC investigate the potential of a fund-raising summer / fall golf outing. Similar events that he’s attended have raised between \$5-\$10K for the sponsoring group. Many agreed that this might be a great fund raising opportunity and should be investigated further. Steve pointed out that this would be the	Craig will report back to the Board as these ideas further develop.

Subject		Action
	4th large organizational event in 2027. Coordinating the 1) Educational Conference, 2) Spring Plant Sale, and 3) Garage Sale will take significant member participation and adding a fourth event may be too much to ask. It was suggested that this might be a great joint Oakland-Macomb opportunity as it would broaden the pool of volunteers to work on the event.	
Hospitality	Kathy noted that she will be reaching out to members to secure a planning committee to assist with the Christmas PotLuck.	
Marketing / Communication		
Membership / Elections	Julie reported she has not received any additional nominations for Vice-President and Secretary. She will make an election announcement at the General Meeting calling for any further nominations. If none are received, Sally Bolle and Steve Smith will be declared elected at the end of the meeting. We are currently 102 members strong!!	
Merchandising	Sally has uploaded current inventory lists and information on Facebook and the website. She is bringing a couple orders to the general meeting but the process remains time-consuming.	
Programs / Zoom Coordinator	Amanda confirmed that the April 2027 meeting will be at Telly's Shelby site to learn about the "back of store" operations to run a nursery. It was noted that this might be an opportunity for a joint Oakland-Macomb meeting. Amanda will form a team to look at potential 2027 speakers.	
Trip and Tours		
E. Old Business		
2026 Photo Contest	Amanda mentioned she had only received 2 photos thus far. The deadline is 10-31-26. She will remind members at next week's general meeting. Amanda asked the Board to approve the four Executive Board members and herself will be the judges for the contest. Top five photos will be chosen and the membership will choose the winner at the Christmas Party. Suggested Prize Package: Full year free MGSOC membership, \$100 gift card, and photo on membership directory. MOTION: Approve prize package of \$100 gift card and one full year MGSOC membership.	



Subject		Action
	Amanda/Craig motioned/seconded. All in favor. MOTION PASSED	
F.	New Business	
G.	Adjournment / Next Meeting Adjourned: 19:50 Volunteer hours: 1.5 Our next Board meeting will be a joint Board meeting with Macomb Society at a location to be determined. The intent is to meet & greet and begin to brainstorm potential joint activities. Future Meetings: No December Board meeting, Christmas Party at Telly's on Dec. 8 MARK YOUR CALENDARS for 2027 meetings: Jan 5, Mar 2, May 4, Sep 7, Oct 5, and Nov 2 at 6:30PM	Future meetings will be conducted via Zoom and start at 6:30PM (18:30)

All reports are available from the Secretary. Requests must be made in writing. These minutes will be posted on our website, www.mgsoc.org but without financial information. They may also be edited for content.

Respectfully submitted, Stephen Smith, MGSOC Secretary