



MGSOC General Meeting, Troy Community Center: 10-13-2026

Business Meeting:

President Craig Smith called the meeting to order at 6:32pm and welcomed everyone.

President's Report (Craig Smith):

- Our Board will hold a joint Zoom meeting with Macomb County EMG Board on 11-04-26 to look for opportunities to collaborate with activities, fund raising, and speakers.
- Fundraising in 2027: Craig noted that will be bringing back "The Marketplace" aka Garage Sale this year. We hope to expand our merchandise selection. Date and time being worked out with Telly's. A Spring Plant sale is in the works, most likely would be held at the pavilion at the Troy Conference Center. More to come as we develop these events.
- Our Holiday Party will be held **December 8, 2026 at Telly's in Troy**, 3301 John R, Troy MI. Kathy Sobanski has started planning the Pot Luck Dinner. Please reach out to Kathy sobanskK@yahoo.com if you'd like to help plan the festivities. Party will be open to members and their guests.
- 2027 is the 50th anniversary for the MSU EMG program. Several events and a "Campus Day" in East Lansing will be held throughout the year. Craig is working to get an event in Oakland. More to come.....
- Craig went through some important dates for EMG recertification process. Extension will send email reminders.

Date	Event / Task	Comment
November 30, 2026	EMG hours entry DEADLINE, VC closes , Gold Badge hours due for 2027 recognition, hours waiver due	Contact VMS Ambassador for hours waiver
January 11, 2027	EMG Recertification OPENS: \$20	Trainees / Emeritus: \$0
January 31, 2027	Regular EMG Recertification ENDS	
February 1, 2027	LATE RECERTIFICATION begins, \$40	
February 10, 2027	LATE RECERTIFICATION ENDS at Midnight	
February 11, 2027	RECERTIFICATION CLOSED	Hard deadline, if missed may recert April 1: \$50

Vice-President's Report (Sally Bolle): BUY MERCHANDISE !!!

Treasurer's Report (Dianah Foster): Dianah reported our current bank balances. Please contact Dianah dfoster777@comcast.net directly if you have specific questions about our current budget.

Secretary's Report (Steve Smith): Notice through email blast for MGSOC Gardener of the Year, Bower's Farm Award, Grants, and Scholarships sent out two weeks ago. All applications are on our website, www.mgsoc.org, email or post your application to Steve (his email/address on applications). The Board approved criteria for our scholarship, up to 10 scholarships will be awarded. Continue to encourage local community garden organizations to submit grant applications for 2027. **APPLICATIONS ARE DUE JANUARY 31, 2027**

Educational Conference (Betty Peters): MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Next year's conference is scheduled for April 24, 2027 at Oakland University. Still in need of lead for door prizes, next Conference Committee meeting in early November. Please contact Betty betty@peters-inc.com if you would like to help in the planning.



Membership /Elections (Julie Bird): Last call for candidates to run for Vice-President and Secretary two-year terms (2027-2029). We are now at 102 members!

Hospitality (Kathy Sobanski): Holiday Potluck planning has started, please reach out to Kathy if you'd like to help. Signup sheet is being passed around for November meeting. As always, please remember to email Kathy SobanskK@yahoo.com if you are bringing food to our meeting.

Corresponding Secretary (Cecily Roney): Nothing to report, please reach out to Cecily roneycecilya1@gmail.com 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 reported lots of construction going on at the Farm. Nancy needs Cider Press volunteers for 10/18, 10/24, and 10/31. Please contact Nancy: nancy.c.s@comcast.net

Speakers / Presentations (Amanda Koran):

- Amanda noted we are still looking for topics of interest for 2027 speakers. Please take a moment to fill out our survey by clicking on the link, [MGSOC Speaker Selection Form](#). Tell us what you want to see, what you don't want to see, and any recommendations you might have. If you'd like to help select our speakers, please contact Amanda chase8219@gmail.com.
- We are having a 2026 MGSOC Photo Contest. Select your best garden / nature photos and enter them into our contest. You may submit more than one if you'd like. Please email a high-resolution .jpg photo to mgsocphoto@gmail.com by October 31, 2026. A panel of judges will select five finalists who will receive a framed copy of their photo. All five photos will be displayed at the Christmas Party and attendees will select the 2026 Grand Prize winner. The Grand Prize winner will receive one-year free MGSOC membership, a gift certificate, and be the featured cover for our membership directory. Please note that all submitted photos may be used in future MGSOC presentations, such as the Gardening and All That Jazz slideshows, or on the MGSOC website.

Meeting ended at 7:00pm

PRESENTATION: Amanda Koran introduced Julia Hoffley who presented "20 lessons in 20 years of Gardening with the Hoffleys". **TOTAL EDUCATION HOURS: 1.5**

Door Prizes and 50/50 Raffle: Janie raffled off four door prizes to those in attendance. 50/50 raffle collected the maximum \$100 and our winner was Pat Beck. Congratulations Pat!

WE ARE NOW 102 MEMBERS STRONG!!

IMPORTANT DATE REMINDERS, MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

11-10-2026: General Membership Meeting, Troy Community Center, Rm 304 3179 Livernois Troy, MI 48083

11-30-2026: Deadline for logging volunteer hours into Volunteer Central

12-08-2026: Christmas Party and Pot Luck at Telly's Greenhouse, 3301 John R Troy MI 48083

01-11-2027: EMG Recertification starts

01-31-2027: EMG Recertification ends

04-24-2027: All That Jazz Educational Conference, Oakland University

Submitted, Steve Smith, MGSOC Secretary