

THE FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF MICHIGAN, INC.

PRESIDENT

MIRIAM SANFORD (MRS. LOUIS)

610 W. ELLIS AVENUE

BELDING, MI 48809

THEME: SHARE THE RAINBOW OF KNOWLEDGE, FRIENDSHIP AND IDEAS

JUNE 1995 - JUNE 1997



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Having been of service since 1987, newly elected FGCM President, Miriam Sanford, brings a wealth of experience to the office of Presidency...generously sharing her time and many talents with both grace and distinction. She is known throughout the state for her outstanding and creative floral designs at State and District shows.

Miriam's theme for the next two years "SHARE THE RAINBOW OF KNOWLEDGE, FRIENDSHIP AND IDEAS", challenges members to extend the hand of friendship to others in their community. The commitment and enthusiasm at the grass roots level is an essential element for all volunteer organizations.

Membership continues to be the #1 goal for her administration. Goal #2 addresses development of leadership skills. Goal #3 encourages increased awareness of the state publication THRU THE GARDEN GATE. Goal #4 pledges to raise \$20,000 to complete development of the FGCM's special project...the Frederik Meiger Gardens. Goal #5, be in the "Michigan 500" ...the 1996 National Convention is ahead. Please "say yes", when asked to help.

Miriam Sanford conducted the 1st board meeting of her administration immediately following the close of the 1995 "Patchwork Pageant" convention.

The President extended a warm welcome to the newly elected board members and stated that, with their commitment to the Federation, we can together conduct the business, objectives and purpose of the FGCM, as we share with her a "RAINBOW OF KNOWLEDGE, FRIENDSHIP AND IDEAS".

Goal #1 to increase membership to 7500 was surpassed. The Federation stands at 7591 strong and viable.

Goal #2, District Directors and Nancy Goulette, Membership Chairman, are to be commended for sharing leadership skills.

The formation of new clubs is a delicate negotiating process, but their enthusiasm and persuasive abilities led the way.

Goal #3, THRU THE GARDEN GATE, is once again an award winning publication. Judy Nycamp, Editor, and her editorial staff labored to update, streamline and publish an informative bi-monthly membership magazine and can be proud of its unlimited opportunities to learn and educate the public in goals of the Federation.

Goal #4, Over the last two years, the Frederick Meijer Gardens has been on-going. The goal to raise another \$20,000 in this term is almost complete. The Federation is especially grateful to Nancy Cortez and Pat Miller for their four year commitment to the Meijer Garden's fund raising project.

Goal #5, Finished but never forgotten are the 500 Michigan members who attended the National Council of State Garden Club's meeting in Traverse City...they truly shared with us a "RAINBOW OF KNOWLEDGE, FRIENDSHIP and IDEAS".

As she reached a close of her administration, Miriam expressed sincere appreciation to all members for their success in achieving the five goals of her administration.

The following report of progress and achievement reflects the dedication, leadership and skills of the many FGCM members who actively participate in the organization's programs.

ARBORICULTURE: Edna Rosenfeld collected information on the number of trees planted for our National Council President's Project.

AWARDS: Karen Jenks and Edie Ho revised, updated and coordinated the judging sessions of books of evidence. A total of 116 books from 56 clubs were judged and 24 applications were prepared for National awards.

BUTTERFLIES: Rhea Tracy promoted the building and establishment of butterfly shelters. A butterfly growing kit is in readiness to be used in an elementary 2nd grade class.

CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION: Lottie Rybard promoted the new Civic Beautification awards and other improvement awards.

CONSERVATION CONFERENCES: Carol Carzon organized two 3-day meetings which were held at the Ralph MacMullen Conservation Center. The 56th annual conference was held in September 1995 with 62 registered members. The 57th conference attracted 46 members.

CONSERVATION SCHOLARSHIPS: Bonnie Haller reported that 1997 marks the 50th year that the FGCM has participated in the Higgins Lake Environmental program, offering room and board scholarships to teachers, graduate students and community leaders.

CRAFTS: Pauline Flynn spent the past few months researching craft ideas. Her goals and objectives continue to emphasize

educating the public and our membership on the wealth of materials available from nature.

DISTRICTS: Directors reported valuable work accomplished in all areas of Garden Club endeavor. Attendance at State and District meetings has been exemplary, programs varied and speakers noteworthy. Highlights included: "Aisle of Wreaths" benefiting the Detroit Children's Hospital; a community project in Hillsdale that gave tree to three elementary schools; Brighton's craft show which resulted in a \$100.00 scholarship to the Foundation; annual plant sales which helped sponsor a student to a Conservation Conference; maintained garden beds at a Senior complex.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES SCHOOL: Cheryl Tolley reports that the Department of Environmental Quality has joined with the Department of Natural Resources to make the Higgins Lake Environmental school an even more powerful tool for spreading the word about the environment.

FGCM FOUNDATION: Grace Steffes reports that scholarships were approved for the 1996-1997 academic year. All funds for educational purposes are channeled thru the Foundation...a non profit organization which enables the Foundation to continue providing scholarships to State University students. There was one addition ...a \$1,000 scholarship to the University of Michigan in memory of Dr. Louis Sanford, husband of FGCM's President.

FLOWER SHOW JUDGES CREDENTIALS: Nancy Passfield reported that we had three newly accredited judges last fall after the reading exam. We have 41 Master Judges, 8 Life Judges and 55 accredited judges throughout the Federation.....for a total of 104 Flower Show Judges.

DISTRICT FLOWER SHOWS: The following were exceptional shows which highlighted the creative talents of Michigan's floral arrangers...Two Ann Arbor Flower and Garden Shows: in 1996 "Art in Bloom" and in 1997 "An American Bouquet"...these were rated one of the best of the American Garden Shows by the Travel and Leisure magazine. Two District I Flower Shows were held at the Pontiac Silverdome..."Island Hopping" in 1996 and "Motor City Madness" in 1997.

GARDENING CONSULTANTS COUNCIL: Norma Stancoti reported that the Council has 62 active members, 4 honorary members and 14 provisionals, with the prospect of many more members as a result of the current course just completed in Grand Rapids. a special certificate was presented to Miriam Petrides in recognition of her role in creating GARDEN STUDY.

GARDEN THERAPY: JoAnn Ott informed us that the first Garden Therapy workshop was held at the Frederick Meijer Gardens in 1995 and another planned for 1996. These attracted a diverse group of people from many different settings...and an exciting garden was designed in Grand Rapids at the Family Life Center for people suffering from dementia.

HORTICULTURE: Joan Monforton has written horticulture articles for each issue of the GATE. For the third year she has served as horticulture chairman for a number of flower shows and, as requested by the President, has written the rules and awards. Joan worked many hours formulating and condensing a unique idea which gives the horticulturists a new avenue of participation.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP: Shirley Weiss received a congratulatory letter from the NCSGC's Life Chairman, Marilyn Litvak. Michigan was the winner of the \$100.00 check with a total of 123 new State Life members and 11 National Life members.

LODA LAKE: Nancy McGillard reported that the FGCM, in partnership with the National Forest Service, has new trails for the Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary. Clubs are urged to make a monetary contribution to this only Wild Life Sanctuary located in a National Forest supported by the FGCM of Michigan.

MEMBERSHIP/LEADERSHIP: Nancy Goulette continues to emphasize promotion and communication as the key to membership growth throughout the state and nation. Increase of membership and forming new clubs has been a goal for this chairman.

MICHIGAN NCSGC SCHOLARSHIP: Joanne Searle has compiled and forwarded scholarship information to 30 department heads at colleges and universities. She has had an unusually large number of individual inquiries this fall.

LEGISLATION: Wanda Schideler reports working with "SCENIC MICHIGAN", a state-wide coalition dedicated to preserving Michigan's beauty. The Michigan Department of Transportation has a Request Proposal in the works for a pilot program to introduce logo signing.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Nancy Goulette presided over the election of the following board members who were elected Directors-at-Large, for a 3 year term...Janet Hunt, Elinor Burghrer and Bonnie Haller.

PARLIAMENTARIAN: Anne Javoroski has been working with the Bylaw Committee of Caroline Gray and Jane Montgomery on parliamentary procedures and is currently consulting with four Garden Clubs on updating their Bylaws.

POLICY PROCEDURES: Jane Montgomery reported that the descriptions were updated and are ready to hand out to officers and committee chairmen at the FGCM Annual meeting in June.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/PUBLICITY: Kathryn Briggs reported that she has prepared articles for the GATE, giving tips and suggestions for better publicity. She also assisted the Awards Chairman for judging the Books of Evidence for the Publicity Press awards.

PROGRAM/YEARBOOKS: 75 year books were entered for awards this year. There has been an increase of 20% in number of books entered during the past two years. Thirty three awards were given and new yearbook awards were selected after the regular judging of all books.

ROADSIDE BEAUTIFICATION: Josephine Russell helped to evaluate the placement of logo signs for public and outdoor advertising. Projects included assisting in the planting of wildflowers at the Michigan welcome center on I-75...the first kind in Michigan.

SYMPOSIUM: Isla Shipper prepared the final arrangements for the 1997 symposium which was held in Holland Michigan. Two excellent instructors were obtained to inform members about the new areas in the handbook.

THRU THE GARDEN GATE: Judy Nycamp, Editor of our prize winning publication, serves as a valuable link between members and the Federation. Judy received the National Council of State Garden

Club's Award of Merit in both 1995 and 1996.

WILDFLOWER ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN: Cheryl Tolley reports that a new program has begun to give grant money to schools developing a native plant habitat on their school grounds. Five grants of \$240.00 were given and named to honor significant members in the Wildflower Association's history...Josephine Russel, Betty Dick, the Doehnes, Isobel Dickinson, and Florence Spruit.

WAYS AND MEANS: Diana Leipprandt and Barbara Donahue attended all district meetings and were well stocked and ready for the National Convention.

WORLD GARDENING: World Gardening is a 4-H program for the encouragement of gardening and conservation in foreign countries...in our case, Belize, which happens to be a sister city of Detroit. Thru individual and club donations FGCM is able to help a few worthy students in Belize continue their education past the 9th grade.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES: Peggy Bee reports that members should now refer juniors as ECOTOTS, intermediates as ECOTEERS and high school gardeners as ECOTEENS. National Council is using these new terms in all youth activity awards.

The executive committee met in June and laid plans for the restructuring of board meetings for better communications. The new format was put into place...short oral reports by the chairmen reporting to the President, Vice-President and District Directors, followed by "Break Out" sessions. The object of these "Break Out" sessions was to improve the communication between the officers and committee chairmen for more efficient use of time.

Michigan members were delighted to accept National's invitation to host its 67th annual convention, "A GREAT LAKES GALA", held in May 20, 21, 22, 1996.

Michigan's team of Convention Chairmen: Jane Montgomery, and Vice-Chairmen Marge McGoff, Lyn Butus and FGCM president, Miriam Sanford, orchestrated an event that sparkled with creative ideas, showcasing Michigan's hospitality, creativity, and beauty.

Mrs. John M Michie, keynote speaker, formally opened the 67th annual National Council Convention on Monday noon and presided over GALA activities. Mrs. Michie's theme, "Always Creating Beauty", expressed not only her ideals but the goals and philosophy of NCSGC as well.

Michigan's Governor, John Engler, extended a warm welcome and best wishes for a productive and enjoyable conference.

Convention programs were well received. Presentations by members, speakers and guests were stimulating, informative and inspirational as well as entertaining. Members welcomed the thrill of meeting our national officers and attended the business meetings where National Council's future plans were discussed and important decisions made.

The National Life membership banquet was, as promised, a very special evening for National members, and became a time to proudly present 106 new life members, 56 more than the chairman's goal.

The President's reception, hosted by District VI, offered the opportunity to meet and mingle with our honored guests.

The 65th Annual Convention of the Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan was held on Thursday, May 23, 1996, at the Grand Traverse Resort following the close of the National Convention.

The theme for this year's State Convention: "Share the Rainbow of Knowledge, Friendship and Ideas".

Ethel Gallagher, Mary Lou Fox and her District VI committee members prepared a very successful venture...a 1-day FGCM State meeting on May 23, 1996, immediately following the close of the National Convention. Of necessity, FGCM President Mariam Sanford, conducted all possible business at earlier board meetings and awards were presented at district meetings.

The State Convention day started with a coffee hour in Miriam's suite. Opening ceremonies and a business meeting followed at 9 AM.

Mrs. Rone, Central Region Director, spoke at the festive luncheon honoring the chapter Presidents. A short State board meeting followed. Members voted on important Federation matters and, as Miriam's theme suggested, enjoyed each other's "FRIENDSHIP" and exchanged "KNOWLEDGE" and IDEAS" in a festive atmosphere bedecked in "RAINBOW" colors.

The turnout of members for the meeting numbered 205... remarkably good for so short a convention.

The 66th annual State meeting, "North Woods Adventure", was held on June 2, 3, 4, 1997, at the Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire, Michigan. The Convention was hosted by District IV clubs...Co-Chairmen, Nancy Kortes and Pat Miller.

On Monday, FGCM President Miriam Sanford presided over the opening of the State annual business meeting and extended a warm welcome to members and guests.

At the welcoming luncheon, FGCM Past President, Erie Heermann, delivered the invocation. The featured speaker, Sharon Lovejoy, shared her love of gardening with us...encouraging us to be "more than gardeners", and highlighted gardening as part of our lifestyle and legacy.

Afternoon there was the occasion to participate in workshops which featured freeze-dried flowers, forestry in Michigan and Woodland gardening.

Sharon Yantis presided over the National and State Life members banquet. The dinner program spotlighted the talents of President-elect, Jean Moran and our crafts chairman, Pauline Flynn.

On Tuesday morning, tours at the Grass River Natural areas were offered. Our tour took us on the 1.5 miles of boardwalk that winds through marsh and bog. There was time to see eagles nesting and spot blooming wildflowers.

The luncheon speaker, Merry Kim Meyers, entertained us with her lively presentation entitled, "Midnight in the Garden of Woods and Weevils".

Tuesday evening featured an awards banquet. This was a special evening as our club Presidents and outstanding club members were recognized for their achievements. Officers for the 1997-1999 administration were installed. The meeting adjourned and members gathered for an afterglow hosted by District I in honor of newly elected FCGM President, Jean Moran.

At the Wednesday breakfast meeting, Glen Chown of the Grand Traverse Regional Conservancy, was our featured speaker. The 66th Annual State meeting came to a close with the presentation of additional citations and a new award...The Miriam Petrides Award...which will be in effect until year 2002. Each year \$100.00 will be awarded to a winning applicant.

Members will long remember the State Convention at the Shanty Creek Resort for its beauty and for the occasion to meet and mingle with members devoted to the FGCM programs.