



December, 2017

Hello WIMGA Board Members and Local Representatives,

Thanks again to everyone who attended the meeting at the state conference in October. Your input was valuable, and I hope you have been able to share some of the information from the meeting and the conference.

Welcome to a new local rep: Ruth Cline replaces Barb Herried in Wood County. We still have vacancies for local representatives from Adams Co., Portage Co., Racine-Kenosha, and Rock Prairie MG groups. The Central District has elected Linda Dahlke from Marquette County as Director, replacing Lynn Cain from Portage County. The Western District still needs to choose a District Director to replace Laura Franta. The local rep from Racine-Kenosha automatically becomes a director, since there are only two associations in the Southeast District. In July, Rose Kennedy was elected by the Board to finish out Jim Culbertson's term as At-Large Director. Rose has informed me that she will not be running for another term. A nomination form for that 3-year position will be in the next newsletter.

Last year WIMGA updated the roles and responsibilities of directors and local representatives. I am going to send a copy of that along with this letter. Please take time to familiarize yourself with the responsibilities of your position, whether it is Local Representative, District Director or At-Large Director. Please note that district directors are ALSO local representatives, so they need to cover both sets of duties. Right now, I ask that three important tasks be done:

1. **Please send a copy of your current bylaws to the WIMGA secretary**, Diane Kachel. Many of the copies we have are quite old, and probably have been updated. Email is preferred: dkachelmg@charter.net; if mailing, use N5603 Rockridge Court, Johnson Creek, WI 53068.
2. **Please send a list of your association's officers (with name, address, email, and telephone)** to Diane as well. This is the season for many groups to be electing officers, and even though most WIMGA communication is with the local reps, there are times we need to know who the officers are.
3. **Send the dates of your garden seminars to me** at buckhill@centurylink.net. The Executive committee is planning next year's meetings and this will be very helpful as we try to avoid conflicting with other MG events. The spring face-to-face meeting with local reps is the hardest to schedule because of all the spring events and Easter! Please help us by sending me your dates.

Website update: a committee of Karin Peacock, Ellen Terwilliger, Marilyn Gorham, Cathy Lombard, Vicky Hopp, Byron Hacker and myself have been working on clarifying who the audience is for this website (YOU!) and what you will use this website for. We hope to be meeting soon with the webmaster to make some changes in layout and design to make the site more useful to you. In the meantime, you can find the WIMGA marketing power-point by clicking on "Our Story" at the website: <https://wimga.org/>

Don't forget that one of your jobs is to make sure your local treasurer sends dues and an Excel file list of names (in alphabetical order please), addresses, telephone numbers and emails of paid members to WIMGA Treasurer Byron Hacker by January 15. Byron's address is N4511 Hwy 57, Chilton, WI 53014. Send a copy of the Excel file to Susan Mahr also at semahr@wisc.edu..

Thank you for your willingness to be leader in WIMGA to help serve our members across the state! Please let me know if I can answer any questions or help you in any way. Enjoy your winter garden projects!

Becky Gutzman

WIMGA President

