**PETALS NEWSLETTER JULY, 2020**

Hello fellow garden club members,

Here are a few important announcements:

**DUES DUE**

Glenna Waltee, our treasurer has informed me that only eleven clubs have paid their dues. If your club has not paid, she would like you to do so ASAP. She has asked that we pay in June to make her bookkeeping easier. Thank you. Send a list of your members with addresses and phone numbers to Glenna at P O Box 662, Whitehall, MT 59759. Also email this list of members to Diane Ward, our circulation manager, mydoubleheartranch@gmail.com, and mark if they are Life Members, Master Gardeners and Flower Show Judges, please.

**LANDSCAPE SCHOOL STILL PLANNED FOR Sept 11-12.**

 Applications due by Sept 1 to Joyce Hendricks, 3721 Edmond St., Billings, MT 59102.

**RMR AWARDS DUE BY AUGUST 1**

Remember your Rocky Mountain Region awards are due to Myrna McCollum, 4414 Central Ave, Great Falls, MT 59405-1643. These forms can be found on the RMR website and on the mtfgc.org website under Awards Directory.

**ANNUAL MEETING/FALL BOARD SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 9- 10**

We are still planning to have our MFGC Annual Meeting/Fall Board in Bozeman on October 9-10 at the Best Western GranTree Inn. “Plan(t) for the Future” is the theme for this meeting. Friday afternoon will be Executive meetings with Judges Council held at 5:15pm. Saturday, October 10 will be our annual meeting where we need to vote on by-laws, which were published on page 8 of the Spring 2020 issue of Montana Gardens. They can also be found on the web. We will elect a nominating committee to come up with names for our 2021 election, and we need to cast a ballot for Jim Sadler to become our President Elect. These are VERY IMPORTANT business items that need to be addressed at this meeting and we encourage your participation. We need a quorum at this meeting, so please send a representative from your club or district. Registration is due to Cindy Carlton, 125 Rocky Creek Rd, Bozeman, MT 59715, by September 9 and a form can be found attached to this newsletter. Members may attend this meeting virtually at no charge, if they complete the registration form with their name and email address. More information will be sent to those attending using the Zoom app on their laptop, personal computer or Smartphone. See the article at the end of this newsletter. If you are a chairman and need a table for a display, please indicate it on the form.

I would like to remind the District Directors that we need a nomination from each District to serve on the nominating committee. This committee will meet on October 10 to begin the process to find officers for the 2021-2023 term. If you have a member planning to come to Bozeman for Fall Board, ask them to nominate someone to serve on the nominating committee please.

 The Gallatin County Health Department is encouraging everyone to wear a mask and the Gallatin Empire Garden Club will be judging them as to the most unique, most colorful and most garden related. Sounds fun!

There is a delegate form that I will be sending in a separate email to the club presidents. You will need to list your delegates who may be attending this important meeting and return that email to Lilla Flesjer at lflesjer@gmail.com or mail to 741 Windham Sq, Glendive, MT 59330.

**ZOOM IS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR CLUB and COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**MFGC** purchased the Zoom application for the members to use at no charge while we are practicing social distancing. How is this going to work?

* All members who wish to use the application should download it from zoom.com by setting up their name and email address. The club secretary should keep track of the members who are registered at Zoom.
* Send an email to Phyllis White at gardens@bresnan.net with the date and time you wish to meet. No two meetings may take place at one time. Your meeting may have up to 100 attendees. There is no meeting time limit.
* Phyllis will reserve that time for you and send you an invitation with all the information for joining the meeting. There is a link to the meeting in the invitation that once clicked, automatically takes the member to the meeting. The meeting is chaired by the president (or in the case of a committee, by the committee chairman).
* Each club may want to run a practice Zoom meeting; just send Phyllis the meeting time and date, and work through the bugs and questions from your members. Members should turn on their video and microphone so they can see and hear each other.
* The club president or member who asked for the meeting should send the Zoom meeting invitation to every member via email. For security, the invitation link should not be published in the paper or any other public area, such as on posters or Facebook pages.
* When the meeting concludes, click “leave the meeting.”
* It’s fun to see friends – schedule time before the start of the official meeting for your members to network about how they’re doing and how their garden is growing!