



TGC Keeping in Touch

Sarah's E-Blast - Tx KIT #9
March 2014

TGC President's Letter to Club Presidents

Happy St. Patrick's Day! The promise of spring is a welcome relief. Regardless of your heritage, it's a day when people from various national and ethnic backgrounds dip a toe in Irish culture. Many observe the day by wearing a bit of green and meeting up with friends. Find a four leaf clover for additional luck !!! Wear green on March 17, so you won't get "pinched."

Traditional Irish Blessing - May the road rise to meet you, May the wind be always at your back, May the sun shine warm upon your face, The rains fall soft upon your fields and, Until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand.



Sarah McReynolds

2013-2015 Texas Garden Club President

"Changing Our World Through Education & Friendships"

Texas Garden Club (TGC) - TGC 86th Spring Convention "Expanding Our World Through Education" is March 30 - April 3, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Addison. Registration & information - texasgardenclubs.org/p/winter_lsg_2013_final_or_web.pdf. Great programs, seminars, tours and workshops. You can still register for the meeting, but meal reservations were due mid March. Join your fellow Garden Club members and make a road trip! Come learn and enjoy!

Dragonfly - The dragonfly, in almost every part of the world, symbolizes change. Change in the perspective of self realization has its source in mental and emotional maturity and understanding of the deeper meaning of life. As your club plans your next Garden Club year, think about how your club and members can continue to grow and develop for today and tomorrow with educational opportunities to develop maturity and a depth of character.



TGC Travel - Join Garden Club members on private tours of gardens of Portugal and The Azores, a lunch of "Cozido das furnas" cooked in the heat of the volcanic earth, hot springs, geysers, mud pools, tea and pineapple plantations and palaces. Make your plans for September 5-14, 2014 and enjoy the TGC tour through Collette Vacations with The Royal Horticultural Society.

Sign up soon!
Early booking discount is extended to April 6,



after which time the number of seats held will be reduced to the reservations made. Deposit of \$250 per person is due to reserve your space, along with \$230 per person optional trip cancellation/insurance if desired. Final payment is due by July 7, 2014. Early booking rate is \$4,049 per person based on double occupancy. Singles add \$500. Later reservations will be a \$200 increase, based on availability.

Travelers wishing to make their own air arrangements from Houston to Lisbon would also be responsible for the leg from Lisbon to St. Michael (Azores), but could purchase airport-hotel transfers from Collette for \$50 each way. These transfers are set at specific times, and passengers must be at the pick-up point at the appointed hour. The early booking discount of \$200 does not apply for those making their own travel arrangements. The land-only price of the trip is \$2399 based on double occupancy.

Package tour is Houston IAH to Houston IAH, and promises to be one of those "Once in a Lifetime" experiences for 10 days.

Weblink - www.gocollette.com/link/571473
Reservation form is on the inside back cover of brochure. For information, contact Helen Quinn, 936-718-0531, hortiq@gmail.com

LEADERSHIP - From: Renee D. Blaschke, Past National Garden Club President, from Smithville.

Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has".

Regardless of whether you have been chosen as a leader of a large business or a local organization (i.e.: a garden club), having a vision and a plan to accomplish your goals and imparting those to the membership is important.

LISTEN to your members! It is also important to know the interests and capabilities of your members and work closely with your fellow officers to include interesting and fun programs and projects in your overall plan, **AND** include the members in reaching the goal. A quality of a good leader is just that - **LEAD** and delegate and trust in the abilities and talents of your members.

PLAN ahead. Have a script agenda and do not stray away from it. This will keep the attention of your members as well as keep the meeting moving at a smooth pace. This eliminates the possibility of needless chit-chat that often occurs when members get bored due to time lapse. Always remember, it is the President's responsibility to maintain order of a meeting, and having a script agenda accomplishes this. It is often mistaken that the Parliamentarian maintains order - not so - her responsibility is to advise the President on procedure questions that might arise.

RECOGNIZE visitors. Make them feel welcome and include them in discussions. Meet and greet them with a warm smile and inquire of their interest. Make sure they meet all the members and perhaps pair them off with a member who has like interests. Make a follow-up phone call or drop a short note thanking them for coming and offering to pick them up for the next meeting.



BE RESPONSIVE to your members. If you cannot provide the information they request, find someone who can and refer the member to that person. Then follow through to make sure the member has the requested information. Always keep your members updated on progress of activities - this keeps them informed and interested.



INCLUDE the entire membership in decision making. Make sure your by-laws allow for electronic vote, if an issue should arise between meetings that needs immediate action. Assure them their vote and input is valuable in the decision making process.

I heartily recommend that every club have a copy of the NGC Leadership Manual, available from Member Services for \$5.00 plus postage. It is a valuable tool and will address any concerns. It has sample By-laws, script agendas, good parliamentary procedure, sample resolutions and minutes. While it addresses state and national officers and chairmen, it is easily adapted for use in your own club. It was written by the late Phyllis J. Wood, Professional Registered Parliamentarian who served NGC for many years. This manual should be passed from one administration to the next. Member services phone number is: 1-800-550-6007 (Credit cards accepted).



"It is better to lead from behind and put others in front, especially when you celebrate victory when nice things occur. You take the front line when there is danger. Then people will appreciate your leadership". Nelson Mandela

NGC Convention - April 30-May 3 in Norman, Oklahoma. Program and registration - www.gardenclub.org/about-us/2014-annual-convention.aspx Registrations received after March 29 will incur a \$50 late fee.