

In this issue:

- 2-4 Director Rene` Lynch's Message - MN**
- 5 Wanda Zahrt - State President - IN**
- 6 Tanya Stanley - MO**
- 7 Shirley Wolf - IA**
- 8 Joe Powelka - WI**
- 9 Lisa Robinson - MI**
- 10 Lisa Robinson - MI**
- 11 Photography - Lynn O'Shaughnessy MI**
- 12 Lucy Valitchka - NGC Schools - WI**
- 13 Nan McCabe - Scholarships - MO**
- 14 Cynthia Wright - Smokey Bear/W Owl**
- 15 Save the Date - 2026 Convention**
- 16 Youth Poetry Contest**
- 17 Youth Poetry Guidelines**
- 18 Info for 2026 Virtual Convention**

Dates to Remember

Central Region Convention

October 5th, and 6th, 2026
Hosted by Michigan State Clubs
More info to follow

NGC Convention

May 13th to 17th, 2027
Madison, WI

TGCI State Convention

April 28th to 30th, 2027
Pokagon State Park
Angola, IN

Rene` Lynch

Central Region Director

112109 Haering Circle

Chaska, MN 55318-1377

(952) 361-6393

reneclynch@aol.com

Theme: PLANT AMERICA:

Progress is Possible.

Whirlwind

This spring has been a whirlwind of Central Region State Conventions and National Garden Club's Annual Convention in St Louis. Your director started first with Minnesota's State Convention, followed by Indiana's, Illinois's, Missouri's State Convention, then NGC's National Convention and Iowa's State Convention. Unfortunately, Wisconsin's State Convention was at the same time as another state, and I was unable to go there this year. I was also unable to attend Michigan's State Convention because I had recently been ill with RSV and I couldn't handle the travel.

I am grateful to the wonderful hosts, the planners, the pages and all the attendees for their welcoming warmth and inclusion. You should all be proud of your many accomplishments and commitment to NGC's mission. The conventions were inspiring, educational, and took care of business. There were many interesting programs, speakers, exhibits, silent auctions and flower shows. Congratulations to all those who won awards. So many fabulous projects. So many awards!

Plans are seriously underway for Central Region Convention virtually, this October 5th - 6th, 2026. Michigan has been working many hours to bring us outstanding speakers and a virtual tour. I encourage watching parties. Clubs may meet and enjoy the convention on a large screen. I recently learned that this is the first NGC Region Convention to be held virtually. Some virtual conventions in other regions were held during COVID, but they were basically business meetings. Other regions will be looking to see if this is successful. This is a wonderful opportunity to include many members who cannot travel or take on the expenses.

Rene` Lynch
Central Region Director



Central Region Unified Project

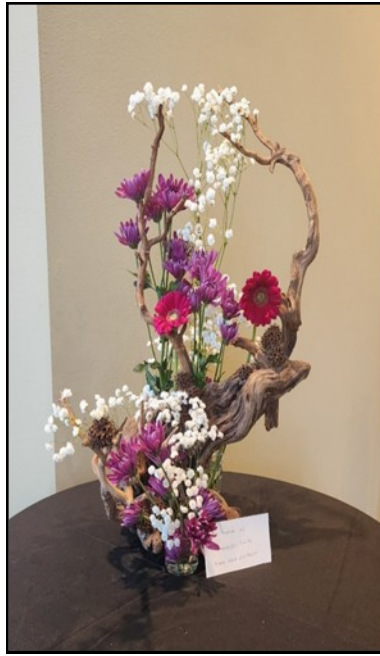
Central Region Director René Lynch's theme is: "PLANT AMERICA: Your Garden Club Makes Progress Possible!" Her Central Region Unified Project does just that: She'd like to recognize club progress on new projects during her term (2025-2027) that focus of NGC's project : "PLANT AMERICA: Red, White and Blue" for club plantings near Blue/Gold Star Memorial Markers or any public area in your community. Winners will receive monetary awards from Central Region. Small club winner (up to 20 members) and large club winner will receive \$100. 2nd place entries in these categories will be awarded \$50.

To qualify for the award, clubs must submit an article (with photos) about their project to the Central Region Newsletter Editor Gloria Notaro: gardenngc@gmail.com. The Central Region Unified Project Award application form must be submitted for review before September 16, 2027. Winners will be announced at the 2027 Central Region Convention.

Please contact Carol Yee: mscyee@hotmail.com for further information or for a copy of the Central Region Unified Project application forms. Information is also available on the NGC Central Region website: ngccentralregion.com

Carol Yee
Central Region Project

It was a Whirlwind!





Wanda Zahrt TGCI President

Plant America with Natives and in Red, White, and Blue.

TGCI opened 2026 with its 94th Annual Convention, held in person in Michigan City, Indiana. We were honored to welcome our own Central Region Director, Rene` Lynch, as guest of honor. During the convention, Rene` installed our three new District Directors and served as a flower show judge alongside Susanne Potts, one of Indiana's Accredited Flower Show Judges. The TGCI Northwest District did an exceptional job coordinating the venue, speakers, and meals. Although the planned hike at Indiana Dunes National Park had to be canceled because of rain, northwest had an alternate plan ready, and the event continued seamlessly.

TGCI's forty-six clubs have been busy doing what garden clubs do best: visiting plant nurseries and somehow finding room for just one more plant, planning and planting civic projects, holding plant sales, welcoming a wide variety of speakers, and exploring new ways to attract members. Above all, they continue to cherish the fellowship that makes their work so meaningful.



This is an especially exciting year for Red, White, and Blue as we celebrate America's 250th anniversary. I compiled a list of Proven Winners flowers in those patriotic colors and shared it with local growers, encouraging them to make those varieties available for spring planting. In turn, the growers passed the list along to others in their regions, helping extend the Red, White, and Blue message even further. The list was also shared with our 250th Anniversary Celebration Committee, which distributed it at each of its speaking engagements. In that way, the message truly traveled from northern Indiana to the southern part of the state.

As we all know, maintaining and growing membership remains an ongoing challenge. This year, TGCI saw the Central West District disband because of its aging membership, leaving only three clubs in that district. With such a small number, hosting state events would be difficult without broader support. In the future having smaller districts share hosting responsibilities would be an idea worth considering. On the other side, several of our clubs have also embraced social media, and their efforts are already generating positive feedback and attracting younger members.

TGCI is fortunate to have two board members who not only embrace social media but also encourage the rest of us to make the most of its opportunities. The first is Cathy Weber, our Indiana Gardens Editor. She has a remarkable gift for organizing information for our newsletter and connecting readers to additional resources through it. At the National Convention in St. Louis in May, our newsletter was recognized as runner-up for first place in the Publication –Small State Newsletter category. Thanks to Cathy's efforts, TGCI was proudly represented among the NGC award recipients. The second is Susan Yoder, our webmaster, who has been a strong advocate for our online presence.

At the start of my presidency, Susan suggested that we share photos and updates on Facebook from the places I visit. That idea became "Travels with the TGCI State President." I have now completed thirty-eight visits, and I have enjoyed every one of them. My goal is to visit all forty-six clubs before my term ends in April 2027.

I encourage all TGCI members to read the newsletters from TGCI, Central Region, and NGC. They offer a wealth of information, and as gardeners know, there is always something new to learn. Happy gardening until next time!

Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri, Inc.

PLANT AMERICA: "Nature's Beauty in Our Backyards"

It was so wonderful to see so many garden club friends from all over the United States and internationally in attendance at the NGC Convention in St Louis, Mo. Missouri was represented by 13 garden club members attending. The design presenter was our very own, Madilyn Hucker. Four members from Springfield, Mo. drove up just to see the petite flower show. Several Missouri members had entries in the show. The show was educational and displayed many talented designers work. The horticulture was petite as well and did not disappoint. Everyone enjoyed the tour of the NGC headquarters and grounds.

Days prior to the NGC convention, federated garden clubs of Missouri, Inc. had their 93rd annual state convention. Garden club members from across the state made new friends and reconnected with old friends. David Robson started the convention off with an educational and entertaining design program. We visited many famous gardens and enjoyed the "city of fountains." Workshops brought out the creativity of attendees. We honored life members, anniversary clubs, award of honor, and garden club of the year. Awards were given to deserving clubs in projects, flower shows, youth projects, Smokey Bear, youth poetry, yearbooks, purple and blue-ribbon clubs, and educational exhibits.

FGCM is very passionate about supporting and investing in our youth and scholarships. We are fortunate to have 2 trusts and generous contributions from clubs to award to college students studying in the field of plant sciences. The trust funds and FGCM funds awarded 8 worthy applicants a total of \$35,500 this year. One applicant was sent onto Central Region and one was awarded at the national level. In addition, FGCM clubs and districts awarded funds totaling \$17,850. The total amount in funds awarded in scholarships was \$53,350.

Missouri has 107 Blue Star Memorial Markers across the state and 9 Gold Star Family Memorial Markers. Missouri is celebrating the 250th birthday of America. Clubs and members are planting patriotic pots and landscaping blue and gold star markers with red, white and blue.

Tanya Stanley

FGCM President

www.ngccentralregion.com

Shirley Wolf - State President of Garden Clubs of Iowa 2025-2027

Theme "Our Pollinators Still Need Help"

Iowa held its 97th State Show on June 15 and 16 at Wild Rose Casino in Jefferson, Iowa. Monday featured the flower show, a Petite Show titled "America the Beautiful." The judges' meeting began at 11:30, and judging started at 4:00.

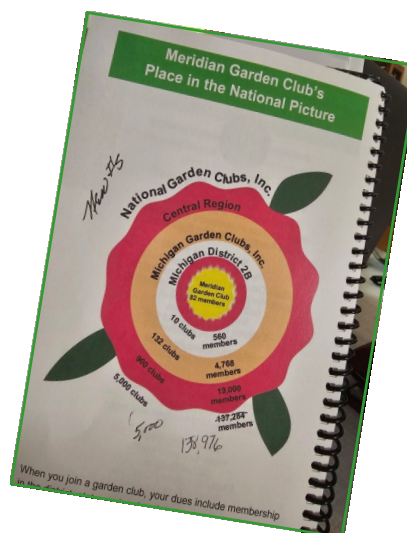
On Tuesday, we opened the meeting at 9:30 with the Pledge of Allegiance, Garden Creed, welcome, introductions, president's address, and select committee reports. Our morning speaker was Chris Deal of Deal's Orchard in Jefferson, who helped us learn more about apples and the challenges of growing them in Iowa. After a delicious dinner, Central Regional Director Renee Lynch spoke to the group. Many years ago, Renee was a Garden Club student training to become a judge with several of us in Fort Dodge.

Our business meeting followed, including the introduction of Terri Ewers as the new Central Regional Director. Our greatest challenge is increasing meeting attendance. The cost of attending is high; however, this year's more central location made travel easier for members who did not need to stay overnight.

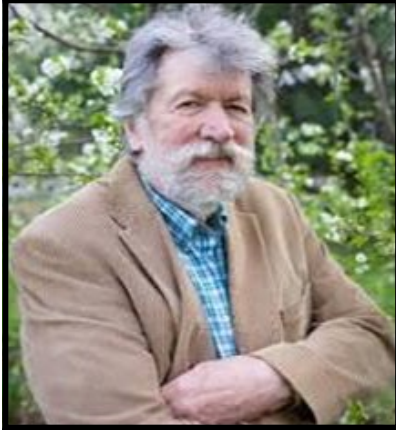
Shirley Wolf

This is the graphic Meridian Garden Club created many years ago to illustrate to new members how our garden club relates to over 5000 other garden clubs.

**Nita Campbell
Yearbook Chair**



Wisconsin Garden Club Federation Notes: “Looking to the past to plan our future.”



My apologies for missing submitting news from Wisconsin in the last newsletter. Besides settling into my term as WGCF President, I was busy writing our State newsletter (Wisconsin Gardens) following the loss of our editor and working with our Futures Committee (FC) on planning how to recruit, retain and develop new leadership for the state. I was also closing out a 58-year working career with a December retirement from 40+ hour work weeks practicing architecture and energy management. I am the first male President in 80 years and only the second in WGCF's 98-year history. So, while I was a bit busy last Fall, that does not excuse me for not reaching out to our garden club friends in Wisconsin's neighboring states.

Like many states, Wisconsin has seen a significant decrease in membership; from over 3,500 members in the 60-70s to currently hovering around 1,000 members. As suggested by my theme and my focus on growing membership, WGCF is looking at a previously completed strategic plan that has faltered and needs updating to confirm relevancy. That process has seen the FC working hard at completing the current survey of our membership and developing recommendations, from and ratified by them, for future WGCF Presidents to implement. Only by reaching out to the membership and obtaining their input and buy-in to “their plan” can we hope to resiliently enter the next 100 years.

While WGCFs focus is on state-centric issues, a key component of membership is the understanding that garden club membership is part of a larger entity with more resources and experience to draw from. Within the state we hear “what does the District and/or the State do for us at the garden club level?”. Taken to the next level, we also hear “what does Central Region and/or NGC do for us?”. Gail Fox, the Programs Chair for one of our Northern GCs, best answers this question as follows: “by being involved with something much larger than we are, with the same goals/aspirations, we can accomplish much more than any individual or small group could dream to on their own”. To paraphrase Gail, to be more successful in some of the programs we undertake, we may need the assistance of others from outside our comfort zone to achieve something larger than we could achieve on our own. The membership structure in NGC has established (member, garden club, district, state, regional, and national) provides the individual member/garden club with a rich variety of possible funding, experience, contact, and recognition resources that expands what it is that we can achieve!

One of the great benefits of attending a State, Regional or National convention that one receives is the opportunity to meet new people with similar interests and issues to yours. Often, while you face problems like theirs, your approaches to resolution of that problem can be significantly different. In addition to making new friends, you learn how others deal with the same issues that you face. This learning provides you with fresh perspectives/insights on how to better resolve an issue and maybe improve the end results. In the end, everyone gains from the interaction. Again, to paraphrase Gail, meeting and getting to know garden club members from other areas of the state, region and nation allows us to expand our available resources to better achieve our local efforts.

I hope to see you all at the CRGC 26 Convention (Oct. 5th & 6th, 2026) hosted by Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc in the Fall. And I hope to meet you all at the NGC 27 Convention in Madison (May 13-17, 2027) where our very own Gerianne Holzman will be inducted as NGC National

Joe Powelka

Wisconsin State President

Summer in Michigan

It's all about Garden Walks and Flower Shows! Statewide, 17 Michigan Garden Clubs are sharing publicity for their Garden Walks, while several others will host private Garden Walks for their members. At least 6 NGC Standard and Specialty Flower Shows are being hosted by Garden Clubs and Councils throughout the state, as well.

Many of our clubs are planning red, white and blue gardens in keeping with Plant America, and we are proud of the eight Michigan Clubs who were awarded Plant America - Blue & Gold Star Memorial, Red, White and Blue grant funds to celebrate America's 250th Anniversary.

NGC Schools:

September 18-19, 2026, Course 4 of Gardening School will take place in Sawyer, MI
Course 4 of Environmental School takes place in Hickory Corners, MI November 2-3, 2026
Course 2 of Landscape Design School will be held in Traverse City October 8-9, 2026

Youth:

To promote Youth - MGC is offering a President's Award, the Club Youth Engagement Award, for clubs to report on and be recognized for projects which Educate or Engage Youth in aspects of Gardening, Environmental Concerns, Landscape Design or Floral Design. An additional category of Award is for those that demonstrate Modification of club approach to partner with Youth to create sharing of skill, knowledge and experience to foster the next generation's involvement in Gardening, Environmental Concerns, Landscape Design or Floral Design. These Awards are intended to encourage and promote work with youth that demonstrates our theme of "Plant America – Grow, Share & Connect to a Brighter Future. "

Gardening With Purpose:

The MGC project, Gardening with Purpose, was developed in 2024, to assist the underfunded in our state. MGC representatives from all 8 Districts continue to enthusiastically share the benefits of this program, update the online directory of food pantries and resource material and prepare ways to promote this program throughout the state. Every MGC member is asked to "plant a row" for their local food pantry and report all donations. Donations for 2024 totaled over 74,000 lbs. and donations in 2025 totaled over 34,000 lbs. and almost \$3,000 in monetary donations statewide.

Other Projects of significance:

Blue and Gold Star Memorials, plants for project gardens, Youth activities, Blue and Gold Star Memorials and natural disaster garden repairs. Communication through Zoom, Newsletters, Constant Contact, MGC Website, free advertising for garden club projects, and events through the MGC web-calendar district Spring and Fall, 2026 meetings and leadership conferences for their members. Award of 16 College Scholarships for 2026.

On June 7-8, 2026, MGC held our Annual Conference and the first State Flower Show in many years. The Flower Show was absolutely gorgeous, and our annual meeting hosted 4 fabulous speakers for the 181 registered attendees. We celebrated the life of our MGC members who passed since the 2025 Conference and "made some noise" while we cheered on the multitude of well-deserved awards presented to members, Clubs, and Districts for State, Region and National recognition.

On October 5-6, 2026, Michigan Garden Clubs will host the Central Region Convention and plans for a Virtual Event are underway with representatives from each of our Michigan Districts. The various sub-committees are hard at work developing plans to make this unique event a success, setting a new standard for Central Region. We look forward to seeing you in October!

Lisa Robinson

Michigan State President

There is nothing so inspiring and heart-lifting as a Michigan spring!

One day, everything is covered in a blanket of snow, the sky is gray and the birds are shivering at the feeder, and next the sun is shining on plump trees and flower buds and emerald-green grass, while new growth is bursting through the ground as the warmth erases those long winter days.

The MGC Awards program has received a facelift over the winter, with newly updated rules and award opportunities, including more Youth and Senior activity recognition in addition to the many other awards offered to celebrate new and ongoing club activities.

The MGC Scholarship program has a long history of supporting Michigan college students through well-deserved and necessary funding to achieve their educational goals and eventually become the stewards of our environment, public gardens and food production. This spring, MGC announced \$1,500. Scholarship Awards to 16 Michigan students.

Gardening with Purpose donations from last year have been tabulated and I'm so proud to announce that every district reported donations in 2025, totaling 33,305.95 lbs. of produce and nonperishable food in addition to cash donations of \$2,475. We continue to report donations and encourage members to plant an extra row of summer produce to donate as well.

Our annual conference was held in Ann Arbor, June 7-8, 2026 members and clubs were making plans to enter exhibits in our state Flower Show to be held in conjunction with the conference. There are opportunities for individuals and groups to enter in horticulture, design, artistic crafts and educational divisions.

I am excited for the spring leadership events planned in Districts 1, 4, 6, and 3A, and the many Flower Shows, Garden Walks, Anniversary Celebrations and other events planned for the next few months, across the state. I look forward to making new friends and seeing old friends as I make my way around beautiful Michigan.

Until next time...Happy Gardening!

Lisa Robinson

Michigan State President

Minimalist Photography

Less is More

by Lynn O'Shaughnessy



"Minimalist photography is an art form focused on simplicity, using the "less is more" principle to strip scenes to their bare essentials, creating powerful, uncluttered, and often, emotional images. By leveraging strong, isolated subjects, generous negative space, and, often, clean lines or color, photographers can evoke calmness or intrigue while highlighting, for example, a single, compelling element."

This is a definition you can get from the internet and it describes this type of photography quite well. The National Garden Clubs Photographers Facebook group has played with this as a theme a few times, which is where I started playing with it. Here are three samples of what I have done with this.

1. This first photo is taken of my pond with the fog. This works as a minimalist photo because there are no clouds in the sky, no foreground, the background is very muted with the fog and no ripples in the water. Simply a mirrored image of the silhouetted trees to the right against the hint of a foggy background.

2. Photo #2 shows a dandelion puffball taken with shallow depth of field so the background is just muted colors. There is no doubt as to what the subject of this photo is for minimalism.

3. Then there is photo number three. This is some old goldenrod stems in the fog. Fog, especially dense fog, can really help to make a good minimalist photo.

You can also try taking a photo of a lone tree on a hill in a field where the tree stands up against the sky without a background. Maybe even make the tree a silhouette. Give minimalist photography a try sometime and see what you think.



National Garden Club Schools
in Central Region or Online in Other Regions

Environmental School

- Course 1 Sept. 17-18, 2026, Derby, CT (Virtual)
Course 2 Aug. 4-6, 2026, Florida (Virtual)
Course 3 None Scheduled
Course 4 Oct. 23-24, 2026, Sheboygan, WI (In Person)
 Nov. 2-3, 2026, Augusta, MI (In Person)

Gardening School

- Course 1 None Scheduled
Course 2 None Scheduled
Course 3 Aug. 24-25, 2026, Westerville, OH (Virtual)
Course 4 Sept. 18-19, 2026, Sawyer, MI, (In-Person)

Landscape Design School

- Course 1 Out of Central Region area
Course 2 Out of Central Region area
Course 3 Out of Central Region area
Course 4 None Scheduled

Flower Show School

Course 1-4 All Out of Central Region

Go to <https://gardenclub.org/> and click on “Schools” in the header to register. Virtual courses via Zoom are great opportunities for a consultant to refresh credentials or take another school.

Lucy Valitchka

Central Region NGC Schools Chairman

CRGC Scholarship 2026

Nan McCabe CRGC Scholarship Chairman

This year I received applications for the CRGC Scholarship from three states, Missouri, Michigan, and Indiana.

All three students were excellent. Sophia Lotzow from Indiana, attending the University of Alabama. University of Alabama was chosen as the winner of the CRGC Scholarship.

She was awarded \$1000. She is a Graduate Student whose degree is MS Civil Engineering/Environmental Engineering with a 4.0 GPA.

Sophia's occupation objective after graduation is to work in the field of environmental and water resources engineering, focusing on the planning, design, and management of sustainable water and wastewater systems. Her aim is to pursue a role in public agencies, consulting firms, or applied research organizations where engineering analysis supports environmental protection, watershed management, and infrastructure decision-making. Her long-term goal is to contribute to projects and policies that protect water quality, preserve natural systems, and improve environmental and public health outcomes for communities.

We should be so proud that our CRGC has a scholarship fund that gives us the ability to help students studying in some capacity plant sciences or environmental sciences. Sophia will truly impact our world with her knowledge and hearts desire which is contributed to projects and policies that reduce pollution, protect soil and water resources, and promote long-term environmental sustainability.

Nan McCabe

CRGC Scholarship Chairman 2021-2027

www.ngccentralregion.com

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

Congratulations to our Region winners:

1st Grade –Ziva, sponsored by Tri Village Garden Club in Illinois.

2nd Grade –Ethan, sponsored by Shoreline Garden Club in Michigan.

Ethan is now a two-time National winner as he placed 1st Place at National for all of the 2nd Graders and won last year as a 1st Grader.

3rd Grade –Kyler, sponsored by Mountain View Garden Club in Missouri.

4th Grade –Bernadette, sponsored by Oshkosh Garden Club in Wisconsin.

5th Grade –Willow, sponsored by Williamston Red Cedar Garden Club in Michigan.

This year we had 6 of the 7 states participate and our program reached over 2,000 students at 216 different schools and organizations. This is also the 3rd year in a row that Central Region had a National Winner!

Though it is summer time, it is not too early to start thinking about ways to get more involvement. Maybe while visiting the county or state fair – make contact with a local youth chairman; contact the leader of a girl scout/boy scout troop; youth groups at church or an afterschool program at a school. Talk it up with your friends who may have children or grandchildren.

Each poster must contain either Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl with their slogan. Smokey's slogan is of course – "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires". Woodsy Owl's slogan is "Give a Hand – Care for the Land". In addition, make sure everything is spelled correctly.

It has been my pleasure serving as the Region chairman for this poster contest. It is really interesting to see all of the posters every year. Information should be coming out soon for the next year's contest. I will send to the state chairman as soon as I hear anything. Go online to [2026-sbwo-contest-winners](#) to see all of the National winners.

State Presidents: If your chairman has changed from last year, please let me know at don-cyn@hotmail.com. Thank you!

Cynthia Wright

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Chair



****REGISTRATION IS OPEN****

Monday, October 5:

Executive Committee Meeting

Joseph Tychonievich "Great Garden Design for Bad Garden Designers"

David Lowenstein "Bugging out: What's that crawling on my plant?"

Tuesday, October 6:

General Membership Meeting

Heidi Grasman "Growing Into 2027: New Plants You Won't Want to Miss"

Joannee DeBruhl "Shoots and Microgreens"

Joe Summers "Frog Approved Water Gardens"

Elizabeth Lumbert "Discover Dow Gardens and its Legacy of Beauty"
(special virtual tour of Dow Gardens)

[Click here for the Silent Auction](#)

*****Organize a Watch Party for added fun with friends*****
(individual registration required)

*****Zoom training opportunities to follow*****

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

~ Hosted by Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. ~

***YOU WILL BE EMAILED A LINK TO THE CONFERENCE
THE WEEK PRIOR TO THE EVENT***



**YOUTH POETRY
CONTEST 2026**

**CELEBRATE AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY
WITH RED, WHITE, AND BLUE!**

GRADES K-12
WINNERS BY GRADE-LEVEL

COMPLETE GUIDELINES
[GARDENCLUB.ORG/POETRY-CONTEST](https://www.gardenclub.org/poetry-contest)





YOUTH POETRY CONTEST GUIDELINES 2026

gardenclub.org/poetry-contest



CELEBRATE AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY WITH RED, WHITE, AND BLUE!

Guidelines

- Include name, address, age, grade, school, sponsoring local garden club and state garden club of the poet on the back of entry. (Child privacy is important to NGC, and thus, published winning national poems will only identify the poet's first name, last name initial, local garden club and state.)
- Poet's family does not have to be a member of the local sponsoring garden club.
- Poems should be no more than 24 lines (including title) with a max of 42 letters/spaces per line in order to fit on single page of the booklet.
- Poems do not have to rhyme. They may be traditional verse, acrostics, blank verse, cinquains, diamond poems, limerick, or haiku.
- When choosing a poem title, please be creative and incorporate the theme: "Celebrate America's 250th Birthday with Red, White and Blue." However, the theme should not be used as the title to any poetry. When judging, the title is worth 10 points.
- All entries become the property of National Garden Clubs, Inc.
- Sending Region winning entries to NGC: All Region winning entries must be typed, titled, and sent to the National Chairperson (James Pavelka, jamespavelka@comcast.net) in Word format via email, and the original hard copy mailed for judging.
National winners will be announced at the NGC 2027 National Convention and the local garden club contact person will be contacted regarding any winning entry.

Submissions and Deadlines

All poems are submitted to a local garden club affiliated with National Garden Clubs, Inc. Local clubs send their winning poems (1 per grade-level) to their State by the published State deadline. State winning poems are sent to their Region Contest by 2/1/2027. Region winners are sent to the National Contest by 3/1/2027. National winning poems are announced in May 2027, and published online in a free digital poetry booklet.

Eligibility, Categories and Judging Criteria

- Youth in grades K-12 compete by grade-level.
- Scale of Points: Title 10%, Content 40%, Creativity 30%, Style 20%. Total 100%



Central Region Leaders!

On October 5-6, 2026, Michigan Garden Clubs will host the Central Region Virtual Convention. Representatives from each of our 8 Michigan Districts are hard at work developing this unique event to make it a success and to set a new standard for the Central Region. We look forward to seeing you in October!

Please share the attached Registration flyer on your websites, newsletters and Face book pages, in emails and any other way that your state disseminates information throughout your Membership.

In addition to opening registration, Michigan would like to offer the following Central Region CHALLENGE For 2026 Conference.

The upcoming Central Region Virtual Convention has the benefits of:

- A low-cost event with 6 great speakers**
- No travel expenses**
- No Exorbitant Meal Expense**

To increase awareness of the activities of Central Region and to boost attendance at this fun and educational event, MGC President-Elect, Ronnie Dush has proposed the following Challenge:

MGC challenges the 7 states that comprise Central Region (CR) and offers the following goals and awards:

- 1) \$100 award to the CR state that has the largest % of registered members – based on individual state membership.**
- 2) \$100 award to the CR state that has the largest % of registered club Presidents - based on total member clubs of each state. (Only one club President per club will be counted).**

An MGC Sponsor will provide the funds to make these awards.

To be eligible, each Central Region state must provide its total state membership number and a list of member clubs, with a total number of clubs to MGC Treasurer, Bunny La Duke . rladuke@migardenclubs.org, before September 1, 2026.

Please let us know if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

**Ronnie Dush
MGC President-Elect
Lisarobinson@migardenclubs.org**

**Lisa Robinson
MGC President 2025-2027
rdush@migardenclubs.org**

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