



# Farm & Garden Newsletter



Woman's National Farm & Garden Association 2023

## President Patty Burnside's Message

Greetings Gardeners and Garden Lovers –

Spring is fully upon us with trees, shrubs, and bushes budding and with flowers (and weeds) popping up everywhere, neighbors have begun their spring yard cleanups, blowers and mowers can be heard through our open windows and screen doors. It is time to put out lawn furniture and ornaments, check that propane tanks on grills are filled, reattach our hoses, check which plants may not have survived the winter and rejoice for the ones that are appearing, spread grub control, turn over mulch, and on and on. And don't we all love visiting our local nurseries? Such colors and smells!! What an exciting and highly anticipated season! I hope you are enjoying nature's annual rebirth.



## Communication

Like nature, Woman's National Farm & Garden Association will be experiencing a rebirth. It will be in how we communicate as we continue transitioning in the digital world. It is important to keep informed. On the national level, your access to pertinent information will be found in the following ways:

### Newsletter

Unless or until someone volunteers to edit our national magazine, you will receive a national newsletter containing much of the same information that was covered by the magazine. Your branch president will notify you when a newsletter will be available every other month.

### Facebook

For timely information such as branch events, teas, luncheons, sales, plant exchanges, garden walks, and more, be sure to post those to our Facebook Page. Also, frequently check our Facebook page for current news, announcements, questions and answers, etc. This page will be administered primarily by Phyllis Macke, our Corresponding Secretary, who is knowledgeable with Facebook.

Address: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/wnfga>

### Website

Leslie Morris-Smith our Webmistress, monitors our website as members send her updates. This includes national subjects such as our mission; logo; history; scholarships; charitable funding; areas of interest; archives; Associated Country Women of the World; bylaws; directories of past national presidents, officers, directors, chairs, branch and division presidents; etc.

Address: [WNFGA.org](http://WNFGA.org) Password for Members: *Farm100garden*



*"Spring Work is going on with joyful enthusiasm."*

- John Muir



## **National Meeting**

The *Official Call to Meeting* which was previously given had to be postponed a week due to conflicts with branch events. The 2023 National Meeting now will be held on Saturday, May 27 from 2:00 – 5:00 via Zoom. Thank you is extended to Kathy Beveridge who will once again host our virtual meeting. A meeting packet including the agenda will be emailed to you on or before May 12 as will a Zoom meeting invitation. Watch for details coming soon.

## **Call for Newsletter Articles**

Below you will find the plans for future newsletters. These articles are to provide information of national concern and/or to share with all members what the various branches have accomplished.

To spread out the information from the branches, only 7 will be featured in each newsletter. Space for your branch will be saved for you on a first come, first served basis. Branch presidents, please reserve the months/issue your branch wants ASAP.

When your reservation is made or if you are a committee chair writing an article, you will receive detailed directions about one month before it is due. Be sure to include the article writer's email address and phone number when reserving your date or requesting information.

NEWSLETTER ISSUE	ARTICLES REQUESTED	DEADLINE TO SUBMIT
May – June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charitable Affairs (Karol Carter)</li> <li>• 7 Articles from Branches</li> </ul>	June 15, 2023
July - Aug 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Meeting Minutes 2023 (Jackie Wilson)</li> <li>• National Awards (Pat Brown)</li> <li>• Environmental Concerns (Suzanne Smith-Oscilowski)</li> <li>• 7 Articles from Branches</li> </ul>	August 15, 2023
Sept – Oct 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture (Joette Kunse)</li> <li>• 7 Articles from Branches</li> <li>• Report from ACWW (Kaye Engelhart)</li> </ul>	October 15, 2023
Nov – Dec 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gardening (open position)</li> <li>• 7 Articles from Branches</li> </ul>	December 15, 2023
Jan – Feb 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 Articles from Branches</li> <li>• Divisions' annual reports for 2023 (Jo Sillanpaa)</li> <li>• Single Branch annual reports for 2023 (Bea Peterson, Joanna Prouty, Mary Jo Bockrath, Rhonda Rainey, Tessie McNeely, Barbara Shaeffer, Marion Temple)</li> </ul>	February 15, 2024
Mar – Apr 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2024 Nominations announced for 2024 – 2026 (Nominating Committee)</li> <li>• 7 Articles from Branches</li> <li>• National: Call to Meeting 2024 (Patty Burnside)</li> </ul>	April 15, 2024
My – Ju 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 Articles from Branches</li> <li>• Announcement of elected Executive officers for 2024 – 2026 (Nominating Committee)</li> </ul>	June 15, 2024

NOTE: Articles, other than the requested list above, may be submitted. If you want to write an article, please contact President Patty Burnside at 989-284-3455 or [pb@chartermi.net](mailto:pb@chartermi.net) to request directions.



## **Open Positions: National Vice President, National Magazine Editor, Gardening Director**

If interested, please contact President Patty Burnside at [pb@chartermi.net](mailto:pb@chartermi.net) or 989-284-3455. Organizations do not last without members taking turns to assume responsibility for its smooth functioning. Please consider taking a leadership role. We need you.

### ***Achievements and National Awards***

WNF&GA recognizes its member branches for exceptional projects and the impact created by those projects on area communities annually. The branch submits an application along with photos and an essay to explain and illustrate the project. Awards exist in each interest area. Applications must be received by May 15 of the calendar year in which the project was completed for one interest area.

- Civic Services
- Education
- Environmental Concerns
- Gardening Floral Arts
- Horticultural Therapy
- International
- Promotion and Growth
- Agriculture



The application can be found on our Webpage's - About Us – Achievements and Awards – “click here.” Send the completed application to National Awards Chairperson Pat Brown at [patb501946@comcast.net](mailto:patb501946@comcast.net) or 586-268-0975.



### ***Inclusion and Involvement***

How has your branch done this year recruiting new members and getting non-participating members to become active? I adapted this list (author unknown) from another group to which I belong. It offers a lot of good advice.

#### ***The ABCs of Retention***

##### ***A is for Agenda***

***Don't run a meeting without one.***

##### ***B is for Building a Better Tomorrow***

***Participate in actively recruiting members and watch your branch grow!***

##### ***C is for Community***

***Make sure your branch is a vital part of the community by performing service projects.***

##### ***D is for Dedication***

***One of the key characteristics of involved members.***

##### ***E is for Evaluate***

***Evaluate your branch and create an action plan to implement inclusion and involvement.***

##### ***F is for Fellowship***

***Plan social activities for branch members that build the bond of fellowship.***

##### ***G is for Grow***

***Find ways your branch can grow***

**H is for History**

*Your branch can acknowledge the rich history and traditions of WNG&GA while planning for future success.*

**I is for Involve**

*Make each member an essential part of the branch by involving them in meaningful activities.*

**J is for Jump**

*Be proactive and jump into action at the beginning. Your positive attitude will be infective.*

**K is for Knowledge**

*The best members are informed ones. Encourage your members to have a thorough understanding of your branch, its goals and history.*

**L is for Leadership**

*Creating future leaders is important for building a stronger branch.*

**M is for Meetings**

*Long/boring meetings are the number one retention challenge. How do yours measure up?*

**N is for New Members**

*Recruit family, neighbors, co-workers, and friends and have them join you at a meeting.*

**O is for Orientation**

*Proper orientation is the best way to get a new member off to a great start.*

**P is for Publicity**

*Don't be afraid to "toot your own horn" by publicizing your branch's worthwhile activities.*

**Q is for Quality**

*Strive for quality in everything you do, whether it be recruiting new members or beginning a new service activity.*

**R is for Recognition**

*Recognize the outstanding contributions of your members at every opportunity.*

**S is for Strategies**

*Carefully plan successful strategies for all undertakings to ensure satisfying outcomes.*

**T is for Team**

*Remember: "Together Everyone Achieves More" and "Teamwork make the dream work."*

**U is for Unity**

*Sharing common goals will make your members feel united.*

**V is for Variety**

*Try something new to keep members interested and involved.*

**W is for We Serve**

*The motivating force behind what WNF&GA branches do.*

**X is for eXtra**

*WNF&GA goes the "extra mile" using horticulture and agriculture to make the world a better place.*

**Y is for Yearly**

*Members grow yearly through their WNF&GA membership.*

**Z is for Zest**

*Can you take care of business and still have fun? You bet! Make your branch enjoyable and productive.*



