

MENTORING

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WHERE DO YOU START? HOW DO YOU START?

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ELIGIBILITY/ADMISSION:

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Independent Garden Clubs and Circles shall have membership of not less than 10 members.

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APPLICATION:

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INDEPENDENT GARDEN CLUBS AND NEW GARDEN CLUBS ORGANIZED ON THE CIRCLE PLAN submit application for membership to FFGC to the District Director for presentation to the FFGC Board of Directors.

NEW CIRCLES FOR EXISTING GARDEN CLUBS ON THE CIRCLE PLAN submit application to the "mother" club which will then advise FFGC.

ALL APPLICATIONS SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY PER CAPITA DUES AND AN ALPHABETICAL TYPEWRITTEN LIST OF NAMES AND MAILING ADDRESSES OF ALL OFFICERS AND MEMBERS.

DUES AND FEES:

The Annual dues of each independent Garden Club and each Garden Club organized on the Circle Plan shall be \$ 9.00 per capita on all categories of members enrolled as of June 1.

The following exceptions:

1. Annual dues of husband and wife with membership in the same club shall be \$ 10.00 family membership.
2. Annual FFGC dues of Life Member with multiple memberships shall be paid by each club except in the club designated to receive exemption.

Dues shall be payable to FFGC and remitted by June 1. Dues of members enrolled after June 1 are payable immediately.

3. Dues for members of NEW CLUBS accepted for membership during the Winter Board of Directors meeting shall be \$ 4.50 per capita.

FFGC HEADQUARTERS: June Richcreek
1400 S. Denning Drive
Winter Park, FL 32789 - 5662
407/ 647-7016 FAX 407/ 647-5479

M E N T O R I N G

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We wish to share an exciting new concept to increase FFGC membership -
MENTORING MEMBERS.

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Concept: existing clubs, circles and councils act as mentors to assist in forming new clubs and circles -

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participating in the initial process of organizing to provide procedural information, FFGC objectives, program suggestions, support, etc. in an advisory capacity -

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Purpose: encourage garden club meeting concept to meet specific membership needs such as lunch bunch, couples, night meetings, winter residents or northern transplants -

Method: complete packet will be sent ON REQUEST from Headquarters with all information and materials necessary to become a Federated Garden Club -

A new brochure is available from Headquarters that is a simplified outline of the procedures for forming a new Garden Club or Circle -

Sources: Waiting lists; public shows/programs; senior centers; church; libraries; garden centers; large employers; hospitals, malls, business -

Mentor clubs, circles or councils are eligible to apply for the MENTOR DISTINCTIVE SERVICE CITATION to be presented at the 2003 FFGC Convention and thereafter at the end of the second year of each administration.

Citations will be awarded based on an essay of not more than 100 words outlining the process used in establishing the new club or circle. BE SPECIFIC !!

Include sources, time frame, number of meetings to establish new club/circle and information that is pertinent to formation. Describe positive steps and areas needing improvement in the mentoring process.

Essay must be postmarked prior to April 1st. Send to: Cissy Richardson, 2209 Port Street, Winter Haven 33881. A panel of three will judge entries.

In addition to the citation presented at the 2003 convention, \$ 100.00 will be presented to first place entry and \$ 50.00 each to two second place entries.

This is open to all existing clubs, circles, councils. For additional information contact Cissy @ suncit@msn.com or 863/ 293-3521 office or 293-0766 home and fax.

AN EXERCISE FOR STIMULATION OF THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION
RELATING TO MEMBERSHIP IN FFGC

1. Why did you initially join a garden club?
2. Do you join for the same reason today? Explain.
3. Imagine that you are 30 years old and interested in gardening. You pay a couple of visits to your own local garden club. Would you want to join based on what you observe going on? Explain.
4. Back to the present: Could you join your garden club today?
5. List 5 things that can be done to retain members.
6. List 5 personal benefits of belonging to the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
7. List 5 activities or projects that your \$9.00 to FFGC support.
8. Are your club dues "out of sight" and causing a buildup of your treasury that no one wants to spend? Give some suggestions for spending garden club money that is "left over" at the end of the year.
9. Suppose your club refuses to meet any other time but the usual 10:00 AM the first Wednesday of the month. What can you suggest to attract new members from the working population?
10. Where do you look for new garden club members?

MORE MEMBERSHIP THOUGHTS AND AN ACTIVITY
BY MARY ANNE FREYER
FFGC MEMBERSHIP CHAIR 2002-2003

PRESIDENTS! Please copy the next sheet in this packet and use it for a thought and discussion activity at one of your meetings. Be creative and offer awards for participation and generation of ideas to help membership growth in FFGC and your club.

On pages 3 and 4 are comments related to the questions in the activity. These comments are mine - for whatever they may be worth. Since I cannot be with you as you do this activity, the best I can do is submit some of my ideas to blend with those generated by your group.

If possible, I would enjoy hearing the valuable suggestions and thoughts that will come out of this activity. Please send me a summation of the ideas of your club or circle, the benefits of this activity, etc. I am also learning and will share the responses with readers of the FLORIDA GARDENER sometime later in the garden club year.

Thanks to all for your efforts to promote membership in FFGC garden clubs.

Sincerely,

Mary Anne
Mary Anne Freyer
3016 Riverside Park Road
Orlando, FL 32810
407-298-2642

COMMENTS FROM THE FFGC MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN MARY ANNE FREYER
RELATING TO THE COMPLETED EXERCISE ON MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS

1. Personally, I joined a garden club because I was so impressed with the volunteerism and dedication of garden club members who work at Wekiva Youth Camp, and the whole concept of youth environmental education. I'm sure many of you have joined for other reasons involving the good works that garden club does, and the opportunity to be a part of this "force for good".
2. Many of you probably still join for the same reasons as you initially did. However, I believe that many also join today because you have done so for many years. It (the club) and the members have become a part of your life that you just automatically renew year after year. Your club has probably changed a lot over the years, and may not remotely resemble the club you initially joined.
3. Good clubs are vibrant and exciting. Things are going on. The meeting starts and ends on time without lots of time wasted on distractions, socialization and deviation from the agenda. The meeting is business-like without time being spent on roll call, reading of the lengthy minutes and report of the treasurer. Bickering and complaining do not go on. New ideas are welcome rather than the talk being "That's not how we've always done such and such". Visitors are made to feel welcome, and the program for the meeting makes members and guests feel that the meeting was worth their time to attend and makes them anticipate future meetings where programs will meet their needs. If you find that you are not much interested in a club you visit (because it does not match the profile above), you can be sure that others will feel the same way.
4. This question is meant to refer to the restrictions placed on new members. Would you be placed on a waiting list? Would you be on probation to prove you are worthy? Would you have to be voted in by a unanimous vote (few of us please everyone to that extent!)? If these restrictions exist in your bylaws, they need to be removed yesterday!
5. Members stay in a club if it meets their needs. One of the outstanding needs today is "was it worth while?" There must be things for new members to do, and things for everyone to learn. Garden clubs must be about gardening. Programs must be interesting, meetings streamlined and something members don't want to miss. Projects must be worthy of people's time and foster a sense of pride and accomplishment. The time and dedication of members needs to be recognized and rewarded.
6. Being a member of a club belonging to FFGC entitles the

individual to participate in numerous educational activities including flower show schools, environmental education workshops, gardening and horticulture study courses, landscape design schools, tropical short course and the Gainesville short course, among other things. To sell the idea of joining a garden club to an individual, or the idea of an existing club to join the federation, we all must know what the benefits are.

7. Dues to the Federation amount to \$9/year. Among other things this money maintains the headquarters building and staff; provides us with the FLORIDA GARDENER; allows participation in world gardening, roadside beautification, lobbying for environmental protection, the Nature Conservancy and Habitat for Humanity. In the realm of education there are scholarships for college students as well as education for children through Wekiva Youth Camp and the S.E.E.K. program. In addition there are educational opportunities for members as listed above.
8. Exclusivity went out the window - if not before, then with Deen Day Smith's request that we have an open door policy and invite all interested in gardening to join our clubs. Dues should be no higher than necessary to maintain expenses for a clubhouse and meetings and programs for the year plus the buffer for emergencies. When you accumulate an excess, don't hide it under the rug just to be wealthy. Make it useful by donating it to garden club projects such as Habitat for Humanity, scholarships, Wekiva Youth Camp, etc. You can also gain some pride in your organization and some wonderful publicity by donating money to civic projects with needs in your community.
9. The solution is to attract new members into NEW CLUBS. We need clubs that meet in the evening or on the weekend or at lunch during the week. We need men's clubs and couples clubs and family clubs and clubs for the elderly at their retirement homes.
10. New garden club members should be lurking around almost anywhere. Florida is ripe for new members because of those moving here from other parts of the country where gardening is different. Leave your brochures at garden centers. Have good gardening programs and publicize them. Much advertisement can be free; pay for it if you have to! Retirees are good garden club prospects. The ladies in red hats and purple dresses are empty nesters having a good time. I hear that they are also looking for civic projects which might put them into one of our clubs. Newcomers really need our good programs on horticulture. Are there Newcomers clubs, new Homeowner Association Clubs, or realtors that we can get our brochures to? Many options are available so, REACH OUT!

UPPER KEYS GARDEN CLUB

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

PLEASE PRINT

DATE _____ NEW _____ RENEWAL _____ DUES \$ 20.00

LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ HUSBAND _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE & ZIP _____ TELEPHONE _____

WHAT ARE YOUR INTERESTS? House Plants _____ Landscape _____
Gardening _____ Floral Arranging _____ Tropical Foliage _____ Other _____
WHAT EXPERIENCES & KNOWLEDGE DO YOU WISH TO SHARE WITH
THE CLUB? _____

ARE YOU A "MASTER GARDENER"??? _____

YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT & SO IS YOUR TIME WE
REQUEST "SIX" OR MORE HOURS OF YOUR TIME TO HELP WITH ONE
OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS, PLEASE CHECK ONE OR
MORE YOU WOULD LIKE HELP WITH.

As an Officer _____ Board Member _____ Host a monthly meeting _____
Assisting in the Club Garden _____ Crafts for the Craft Sale _____
Chair the Plant Ramble _____ Or Garden Walk _____ Or Flower Show _____
Be on the committee of the: Plant Ramble _____ Or Garden Walk _____
Or Flower Show _____

**ONLY THROUGH MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION
AND COOPERATION CAN THIS CLUB SURVIVE.
WELCOME, WE WILL BE HAPPY AND PLEASED TO
HAVE YOU AS AN INTERESTED MEMBER !!!**