



August 17, 2020

Dear Members of Hessie Morrah Garden Club,

It is with deep regret that we must share with you the unanimous decision of your Executive Board to cancel our in person meetings for September, October, November and December of 2020 due to the continuing challenges presented by Covid-19. The health and well being of our membership is our top priority, and feel this is the appropriate and safe path to follow. We will re-evaluate in-person meetings, January 2021. In the meantime, we do have activities planned to keep us engaged! (see below).

REQUEST: Due to wear and tear, we need to replace 2 large Silver Vessels for The Elizabeth Mahon Award and the Alice Bates Award. Please contact Katie Bolt (864-275-5690) if you have one to donate. Otherwise we will purchase replacements.

Please be on the lookout in your email! We have a new email so please add to your address book (hmgc.1951@gmail.com). This will be the only mailed correspondence this year! We will send a newsletter once a month and periodically send business emails to address outstanding issues. In the absence of in-person meetings, the Executive Board will address outstanding issues and/or questions from the membership via written request sent to hmgc.1951@gmail.com. Once the questions are identified and addressed, The Board will publish to the membership via email. The Executive Board will extend the courtesy of a discussion for a period of no more than one week. At this time any revisions will be enacted and republished via the website to the membership.

We remain committed to our Club Objectives: to inspire an appreciation for God's world, to provide fellowship among garden club friends, and to improve and beautify our own surroundings.

Respectfully yours,

HMGC Executive Board 2020-21

Katie Bolt & Katy Smith - Co-Presidents
Elizabeth Stewart - First Vice-President, Program Chair
Mary Claytor Johnston & Lauren McCrary - Co-Second Presidents, Membership Chair
Marshall Johnson - Recording Secretary
Carrie Moore - Corresponding Secretary
Ann Clarke - Treasurer
Jennifer Eley - Historian
Cece Burnett and Michelle York - Co-Horticulture

ACTION ITEMS

- Dues will remain the same for this year, \$45 for Associates, \$60 for Active. Please make checks out to HMGC and mail to Ann Clarke at 11 Augusta Court Greenville SC 29605 or send via venmo, @Ann-Clarke-2
- We will accept change of membership status by Friday, September 7, 2020, in writing, sent to maryclaytorjohnston@yahoo.com, or you can mail to Mary Claytor Johnston 112 Lanneau Drive, 29605
- We will publish our Directory via our website (Hessiemorrhagardenclub.com, Password: Hessie) and will print a copy by request. Please look at your information on the website and contact Mary Claytor Johnston with changes (maryclaytorjohnston@yahoo.com) by Friday, September 7, 2020.
- Please let us know by Monday, August 24, 2020 if you have questions regarding the donation of funds to Hospice House as we would like to contact Hospice House in early September.
- The final budget from 2019-2020 is below. The 2020-2021 budget will publish via email in September.
- Please take note of the “recommended changes to bylaws section” and respond by Friday, September 7, 2020 as we will publish the changes on the website in early September.

2020 FALL PLAN

Monthly Newsletter – **BE ON THE LOOKOUT!** The Board will publish a monthly newsletter and distribute via the Hessie Morrah Garden Club email (hmgc.1951@gmail.com), first of the month, with program details for that month. All programs will be virtual, or drop off/pickup in nature, no in-person gatherings, voluntary participation.

FALL EVENTS

Horticulture Show - September 10
Plant Exchange - October 8*
Garden Tour - November 12*
TBD Hospice House - December 10

***Guests Welcome:** October and November activities are open for guests proposed for membership. Please email maryclaytorjohnston@yahoo.com with guest name. Feel free to distribute the Newsletter to guests.

2019-2020 HMGC Treasury - Bank Statements

8/31/2019 Beginning Balance	\$6,890.78
Deposits	\$5,220.00
Interest	\$7.88
Total Credits	\$12,118.66
Withdrawals	\$2,846.21
6/30/2020 Balance	\$9,272.45
HMGC Deposits 2019-2020	
54 Paid Actives x \$60 (\$3240) 3 unpaid	\$3,060.00
52 Paid Associates x \$45 (\$2340) 4 unpaid	\$2,160.00
Total Dues	\$5,220.00

HOSPICE HOUSE PROJECT

Delivery of Flowers to the Hospice House stopped in April. We would like to consult with the Hospice House about donating unused budgeted funds in the amount of \$1500 towards an installment in their outdoor courtyard outside patient rooms, i.e. Bird bath, fountain, bench, horticulture etc. \$500 is unused budgeted funds from 2019-2020, and \$1000 is the budgeted amount intended for flowers for September-December 2020.

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO BYLAWS

We are in the midst of unprecedented times and uncharted waters, nothing our bylaws have ever had to address. Please understand the Board has taken great care in our recommendations moving forward. The health and welfare of our members and HMGC are first priority. We want to honor the policies set forth by our Constitution. We have addressed the Articles that cannot be followed due to a State of Emergency and have presented Amendments (in Bold Italics). We hope we have identified and addressed the deviations, however we would like to extend the courtesy of discussion. Please feel free to contact us with questions, concerns or changes in wording.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 2. The membership of this club shall consist of two (2) divisions: Active and Associate.

A. Active members

3. Any active member who is absent three (3) unexcused meetings during a year shall forfeit membership in the club.

a.) Excused absences shall be allowed for the reasons:

- I. Illness
- II. Work Responsibilities
- III. Being out of town at the time of the meeting
- IV. Death
- V. ***State of Emergency***

Any other situation will be considered by the Board.

b.) Members shall notify the recording secretary within one (1) week after the meeting of her excused absence. Failure to do so shall result in automatic unexcused absence.

c.) Recording Secretary shall notify a member when she has two (2) unexcused absences.

During a National Emergency, monthly meetings will be cancelled. If we are able to proceed in person, meetings for that calendar year are optional and all members shall be excused if they do not feel comfortable attending. Please however, respectfully RSVP.

Section 3. All applications for membership and change of status shall be made through the Membership Chairman to the Executive Board for approval.

B. Members in good standing shall be eligible to propose one (1) applicant for membership each year if space is available.

During a National Emergency, new memberships will not be proposed unless the guest has participated in one of the 3 meetings required.

ARTICLE VI - COMMITTEES

Section 1. The President shall appoint chairmen of all working committees. Opportunity to sign up for a committee shall be given at the May Annual meeting. Active members will be assigned to hostess one meeting per year by the Executive Committee. If a conflict arises, it will be the responsibility of the member to make arrangements ahead of time for their contribution to the assigned meeting.

During a National Emergency, no committees will be assigned. VP of Programming will manage all monthly correspondence under the direction and consensus of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VIII - MEETINGS

Section 4. The Program Chairman shall designate three (3) meetings ***for potential membership candidates to attend*** and they shall be noted in the yearbook. All other meetings are for members only. Candidates will need to attend/***participate*** one of the three designated meetings to be put up for membership.

ARTICLE IX - DUES

Section 4. The Executive Committee will meet each year to discuss the upcoming budget for the year. A copy of the proposed budget for the next year will be available at the Spring Luncheon in May.
If the spring lunch is cancelled for any reason, the budget will be included in the August communication from the President(s).

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the club at which there is a quorum, provided the Executive Board had previously considered the merits of the proposed amendments; and provided further that such amendment shall be read at a regular meeting and voted on at the following meeting.

During a National Emergency and the absence of in-person meetings, the Executive Board will accept proposed Amendments from the membership. Once the deviations from the Constitution are identified and addressed, The Board will publish to the membership via email. The Executive Board will extend the courtesy of a discussion for a period of no more than one week. At this time the revised Amendments will be enacted and republished via the website to the membership.