

## LA PLATA GARDEN CLUB QUESTIONNAIRE

The garden club is at a critical juncture in time. It has become increasingly difficult to get members to step up into leadership roles. And many members currently in leadership roles have been in them for many years and are ready to relinquish these responsibilities. In order for the club to continue, new leadership must come forward.

To gain input from members, attendees at our February 22, 2018 meeting were grouped and asked to provide answer to the following questions.

Below is a summary of the questions and answers provided at the round-table discussion:

### **1. Do you think co-presidents would be a good option for the club?**

All responses were positive!! Members stated that this allows for:

- \* Mentoring of more junior members;
- \* Respects different talents;
- \* Divides the work in half for each person;
- \* Allows trade-off of responsibilities; and,
- \* Provides coverage if one co-president is not available.

Suggestion:

- \* Define co-president duties in by-laws.

### **2. Why do you think we have problems getting new leadership?**

Reasons given for this include:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| * Age, over committed   | * Lack of understanding of obligations  |
| * Too busy  | * No mentoring or training for position |
| * Night driving   | * Lack of incentive                     |
| * Family responsibilities   | * Retired and traveling                 |
| * Poor health   |   |
| * Do not enjoy attending District or State meetings, travel distance                      |   |
| * Members are intimidated   |   |
| * People enjoy social aspect and programs, but do not feel comfortable in front of people |   |

### **3. How do you see the club moving forward if it does not have a president/co-presidents?**

One group of respondents said that the club could possibly move forward as a social club without a structure.

All other groups who responded said that they didn't see a future for the club without officers. Several said that it would be a shame to let the club disband.

One group stated that we should remain under the State Federation.

One group discussed the possibility of dividing members into groups and having each group be responsible for a meeting, but they didn't think that would work.

**4. Is anyone in your roundtable group willing to assume a leadership role? If no, why not? If so, who and what would they like to do? If no, why not? If so, who and what would they like to do?**

One group provided a response that they have never been asked. Another group said no, they are already doing a job but might consider it if they didn't already have a job.

A Nominating Committee will be appointed and elections will be held according to our by-laws. However, the following said they would be willing to serve in the stated positions:

Treasurer – Karen Allison

VP -- Rose Markham

Mary Ann Wade – only if no one else steps up

Birds – Gloria Groeger

Hospitality – Polly Zimmerman

Star Garden – Patti Faulkner

Science Fair – Polly Zimmerman

Whatever she can – Jane Grove

Parliamentarian – Polly Zimmerman

Program Committee – Sandy Hixson

Support – Harjit Singh

**5. We need a long-term solution to our leadership problem, as a group what is your suggestion?**

Suggestions include:

- \* Officer progression.
- \* Assign one person per month to co-president for each meeting; let them call off the committee Chairpersons for that month that have reports, give them a list.
- \* Have them sit in front to assist the President.
- \* Mentoring and training.
- \* Have the current or to be current leadership look for their replacement and bring them along.
- \* Sessions on leadership responsibilities.
- \* Make leaders more accessible to questions.
- \* Take a survey, get some help.