

June 19, 2024

To All Board Members,

The Strategic Planning Committee and the Executive Board met this week to come up with a plan to help alleviate some Membership issues.

We have two policy changes to bring to the Board for a vote in order to implement them. Our Bylaws state that any policy changes have to be approved by two-thirds of the Board, and to announce that to the membership. In order for us to include these changes (assuming we have the 2/3 votes needed) in our new yearbook before it goes to print and implement these proposals in September we are calling for a special Board Meeting to take up these issues.

To accomplish this, I'm asking you to read the following proposals and attend the ZOOM meeting on Monday, June 24th at 7 pm. Enclosed is a link to the Zoom meeting.

First Proposal—Return to 2 categories of membership—Sustainer (formerly Associate) and Active.

Rationale: Sustainer level would move people out of committee that are not actively working on the committee and make room for more active members to ensure we can support the Garden Club objectives.

1. **Sustainer (formerly Associate member)** – Requirements are:
 - a. Must be a member for at least 10 years. (55 members are currently eligible)
 - b. Pay dues (same as Active status)
 - c. Buy 4 garden tour tickets
 - d. May come to club meetings
 - e. Do not need to be on a committee but may participate on a committee if they wish. Preference sheet needs to be filled out if one desires to work on a committee.
2. **Active** – Requirements are:
 - a. Pay dues

- b. Buy 4 garden tickets
- c. Attend 4 meetings annually
- d. Attend 2 flower arranging classes (vertical and horizontal) over the course of the first 2 years
- e. Serve on a committee.
- f. Work at Butler McCook or Noah Webster historic gardens at least once a year between April and October. (Effective with the 2025-2026 growing season) Chairs of the historic garden committees will be responsible for tracking attendance between the two gardens.
- g. Work at the garden tour in some capacity.
- h. If the requirements are not met, members may be asked to resign. Flexibility is made for illness and other special situations on a member-by-member basis.

Second Proposal—

Place a temporary cap on membership of 130 members and institute a waiting list.

Rationale: Reasons include visibility of presentations, proper welcome for new members and adjustment to the two-category membership plan. Current membership is 123, and any applications above 130 members would automatically move to a waiting list (first come, first served). A temporary cap would also give the club time to explore feasibility of better spaces.

Thank you for your interest and support and I hope to see you at our ZOOM meeting. If you are unable to attend this meeting, please share your vote with Susan Lindberg by June 24th. To move this along we need YOUR vote.

Thank you,

Susan Lindberg

President, West Hartford Garden Club