

**Kettle Moraine Garden Club Awards Ceremony and Annual Meeting
October 16, 2025
Chenequa Country Club**

Deanne Olson, Awards Chair presented the Awards Recipients for 2025.

GCA Years of Service Awards—GCA award(s) to members who have belonged to KMGC for 25 years or more (given in 5-year increments).

25 Years (2000)—Betty Kleimenhagen and Jan McKenna

30 Years (1995)—Colleen Mortonson and Linda Surles

40 Years (1985)—Joni Villavicencio

45 Years (1980)—Patti Leichtfuss

55 Years (1970)—Judy Stark

Traveling Trophies—Annual presentation to members who received the highest points total for entries in the KMGC shows.

Floral Design—Susan Esslinger

Horticulture—Lara Ehram

Photography—Kari Pietsch-Wangard

Mary White Rix Memorial Awards—Annual presentation to a member, active three years or less (exclusive of provisional status), for outstanding participation, including attendance, volunteerism, and leadership.

Jamie Mallinger

Bitsy Winkler Award—Biennial presentation to a member for continued exceptional support of club activities for 15 or more years.

Mary Lou Findley

Caroline Fleager Award—Annual presentation to a member who exemplifies enthusiasm and creativity in flower arranging, with prime consideration given to a novice.

Lara Ehram

Grace Friend Award—Annual presentation to a member in profound gratitude for dedication to the KMGC mission.

Diana Markus

Sally Manegold Award—Annual presentation to a member in profound appreciation for support of KMGC.

Susan Esslinger

President Pam Angst called the meeting to order at 1:29pm. A motion to approve the September 18, 2025 minutes by Julie Meier, seconded by Susan Esslinger. **Motion approved.**

Treasurer's Report: Kari Pietsch-Wangard

Operating: \$43,314.48 Civic: \$43,428.09 CD: \$16,050.56 Money Market: \$12,733.29

Total: \$115,526.42 Difference from 8/31/25 -\$1,477.48

Last year total September 2024: \$108,781 This year total: \$115,490 Still \$6709 ahead from a year ago. Julie Petri made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Jan Ewald.

Motion accepted.

Communications: Anne Frigo and Sue Blott. Articles due October 23rd. Next year website co-chairs will be Sue Blott, Jamie Mallinger, and Anne Frigo. Susan has sent out a Communications survey to the membership. 56 out of 91 members have responded. Survey results will be in the November newsletter.

Membership: Julie Petri. Julie reintroduced the 2025 Provisionals for nomination to become active members.

Mary Braunreiter	Stacy Bader
Debbie Wheeler	Cheri Theisen
Susan Davidson	Jill Repp

Susan Esslinger made a motion to nominate the 2025 Provisionals to become full Active members, seconded by Julie Petri. **Motion approved.**

Nominating: Susan Esslinger. Presented the proposed 2026 Board of Directors.

President : Pam Angst

Vice-President: Sue Blott

Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Meier

Communications: Anne Frigo (Newsletter)

Sue Blott, Anne Frigo, Jamie Mallinger (Website)

Treasurer: Kari Pietsch-Wangard

Conservation Chair: Jack Bothwell

Chair-Elect: Mary Braunreiter

Horticulture Chairs: Sallie Siepmann/Connie Tjarksen

Chairs-Elect: Linda Klimowicz/Susan Esslinger

Floral Design Chair: Amy Wolf

Chair-Elect: Pat Kraft

Photography Chair: Amy Bruss

Chair-Elect: Jill Repp

Program Chair: Karen Gardner

Chair-Elect: Stacy Bader

Ways and Means: Paddy Kieckhefer

Chair-Elect: Cheri Theisen

Past President/Ex Officio: Susan Esslinger

Awards/Founders Fund: Deanne Olson

Bulletin: Kathy Friend

Garden History & Design Chair: Sonja Durkee

Chair-Elect: Becky Druml

Historian: Julie Petri

Holly Berry: Committee driven with Executive oversight

GCA Judges Chair: Sally Ruf

Membership Chair: Susan Esslinger

Chair-Elect: Cindy Johnson

Nominating Chair: Susan Esslinger

Scholarships: Lara Ehram

Spring Plant Sale: Jamie Mallinger

Strategic Planning Chair: Sarah Spencer

Summer Garden Party: Jan Ewald

Visiting Garden Chair: Bonnie Siegel

Chair-Elect: Kris Hieb

Summer Garden Party Support Chairs: Monica Tighe, Sue Davidson, Jackie Rehm, Jamie Mallinger

A motion to accept the slate of the 2026 elected officers was made by Kathy Friend, seconded by Kari Pietsch-Wangard. **Motion accepted.**

Holly Berry 2025: Pam Angst. The invitations are ready. Please pick up today to save on postage. Please sign up to volunteer—hard copies at the meeting and sign up genius was sent out. Greens (balsam, juniper, pine) needed for the Greenery committee. There will be a Greenery workshop for HB on Saturday, November 29 at 9am at Lyndsey's home. Karen Gardner and Karen Sonderman have 12 items for the KMGC favorite things. An eblast will be

sent out to the membership of what they have. Donations still needed. Susan Esslinger will send a description of the “Big Board” dinners so members can start thinking about bidding.

Horticulture: Sarah Spencer. There will be an informal meeting at Birch & Banyon on October 29 at 10:30 to talk about the “good, bad, and ugly” of the summer gardens.

Floral Design: Lara Ehram. There will be a final planning meeting to discuss next year’s challenges and workshops at Amy Wolf’s home on October 21. RSVP to Amy or Lara. Thank you to all who created sustainable centerpieces for the Awards luncheon. Each centerpiece was presented by the individual designers.

Conservation: Becky Druml. A great canning class was well attended in September. Considering doing another next year. The book, *Mighty Red* by Louise Erdrich, was discussed at KMGC book club in October.

Photography: Monica Tighe for Meg Schoenecker. The committee has already met and all challenges are set. Take lots of pictures over the winter break!

Garden History & Design: Sonja Durkee. Garden History & Design will now have it’s own GCA virtual conference on November 13th, 10am-1pm featuring four speakers. Sonja is organizing a watch party, details to follow.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Karen Gosewehr, seconded by Leslie Barkow.
Meeting adjourned at 1:58pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kris Hieb, KMGC Recording Secretary