

**ARIZONA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.**

**Board of Directors Meeting – October 23, 2024**

**SUBJECT: AFGC Southern District Three (3) Clubs -- 2024-2025**

*The Desert Garden Club* (35 members; 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 10:00 am, October through May) The club started their year with a program on October 1<sup>st</sup> on Plants for Pollinators given by Kara Adams, Pima County Master Gardener. This will be followed in November with Updates on Local Water Issues, given by representatives of Marana Water Quality and Conservation. December's program will be on Tucson Parks presented by Kelly Norton of Pima County Parks and Recreation. In January Ray Vassar of Tohono Chul Park will give a talk about Designing a Blooming Desert Adapted Garden. February brings staff of Sonoran Institute speaking on the Santa Cruz River Project. The club will take a field trip tour to Tohono Chul in March and a tour of Tucson Village Farm in April. The year end program in May will be on U of A Scholarship Students.

*Los Cerros Garden Club* (11 members; 1<sup>st</sup> Friday, 10:00 am, October through May) As in past years, members met during the summer to plan the programs for the year. The club began the year in October with a docent led tour to Tohono Chul Park followed by lunch at the restaurant. In November the club will meet at the home of a member whose husband is a Landscape Photographer. He will speak about his career and share his many large photographs of his work throughout the US. The club's holiday luncheon will be at the popular restaurant, Wildflower. Los Cerros does not meet in January. The February meeting features a floral design and lesson on the rites of the Japanese tea ceremony by a member who is a certified master in Ikebana and has lived in Japan where she studied both arts. The club will travel to Tubac the following month to visit the ruins of the mission, Tumacacori. There is a small garden at the mission with plantings from the days of the early missionaries. There is also a short video which talks about how the natives learned to plant edible vegetables. The April meeting will be at a member's home to view her extensive gardens as well as viewing her indoor garden. She will discuss her successes and her failures as she shares her experiences. After viewing the gardens, the club will install a new board, collect dues and discuss the club's charity donations and share ideas about future programs. In May they will finalize the year with a trip to Cactus and Koi Garden Center. After walking through the gardens and the art sculptures, there will be time for shopping followed with a lunch at Truland Burgers & Greens.

*Tucson Garden Club* (19 Members; 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 11:00 am, October thru May at El Rio Neighborhood Center) Tucson GC celebrates its 90th Anniversary in 2025 and invites all garden clubs to share in fun and cake at the Southern District Meeting on February 27th at Scordato's Pizzeria. Membership growth continues as a focus of the club. Tucson GC received 15 email inquiries over the summer through NGC, AFGC and TGC websites. Each new contact was engaged through email correspondence and a few through lunches. TGC lost 5 members last year and gained 7 new members. At the March flower show, TGC recruited their first male member, which they are very excited about. The club has added 3 NGC transplants who moved to AZ Texas, Florida and Colorado (all 3 live in Green Valley which is south of Tucson). TGC continues to reach out to those inquirers who are new to the area and new to garden club with hopes of capturing new membership. This club season includes 6 educational programs. With speakers from City of Tucson's "Storm to Shade" program on "Greenwater Infrastructure" as well as from Pima County Natural Resources' Environmental Education on "Wildlife of the Sonoran Desert". TGC member Rosemary Wade will update the club on the "Chapel Gardens of Peppi's House" with a garden tour to follow. Another member, Cece Delfs, who is a certified NFC Flower Show Judge, will lead a 2-hour, hands-on floral design workshop for all attendees in February. Member, Mimi Salber, will present a program on Arbor Day and TGC tree planting project in March and In April, club members will enjoy an outdoor meeting and docent-led garden tour at Mission Gardens along with installation of new officers. TGC has adopted 3 new projects. 1. Tucson GC will register with TREX Recycling Challenge to donate plastics towards the goal of earning a free park bench; 2. The club is working with City of Tucson's "Storm to Shade" coordinator to design botanical signage of newly installed trees and shrubs at El Rio Neighborhood Center; and, 3. They are working with Pima County's El Rio Library to design and install a pollinator garden for educating their youth program.

Respectfully submitted. Sheila Parcel, Southern District Director