

The Weeders

Report of the Admissions Committee, 2018-2019

Lloyd Brown, Michele Bolton, Patricia Cove, Jeanne May

Marilyn Sprague, Chair; Louise Johnston, Second Vice President

The Admissions Committee is pleased to report on a banner year for new members. Seven new members have been added to our rolls and introduced to the membership: Tamra Adams, (Julie DeVuono, sponsor), Pam Bagby (Michele Bolton, sponsor), Laura Carpenter (Heather Gallagher, sponsor), Monica Church (Maria Thompson, sponsor), Anne Marble (Elaine Lisle, sponsor), Laura Riedel (Cheryl Cheston, sponsor), and Melissa Schweiter (Heather Gallagher, sponsor). An eighth new member is in the process.

The committee held a luncheon in April, with President Lorraine Wallace talking to new members about expectations and general Weeder wisdom. No one was shy about chiming in with good Weeder advice.

Our process begins when a member contacts the Admissions Chair regarding a potential new member. The Chair reaches out to the committee, and after each member responds, hopefully favorably, the sponsor can proceed in gathering letters of support. The candidate is invited to attend at least two Weeder functions so that she can decide if our group is desirable for her. When the letters are in place, the Admissions Committee reads them first, and votes to send the candidate to the membership for comments and endorsements. After a period of time allowed for comments, the longest of which is four weeks, the member is officially a new member, welcomed by the President.

This year, we have tried to suggest to each sponsor that they give even more assistance to their new member in assimilating into Weeder membership. This includes contacting the new member prior to meetings to see if rides can be arranged and generally seeing that they are accompanied and do not feel alone for the first few months. If the main sponsor is not available, there is a team of four other supporters that should be supportive in any way they can for the new member.

We have also suggested that each new Weeder be encouraged by their sponsor to attend one meeting of the various activities supported by the club. This should include a horticulture workshop, Strafford Train Station gardening, Ludington Gazebo gardening, attending a PCGCA meeting, and volunteering for the Magnolia Tribute Garden workday during the Weeders' turn to volunteer. This does not mean the sponsor must attend each of these, as Weeders are going and can provide a ride and companionship, but the sponsor should take responsibility for being certain each new member has a chance to try out these activities on a one-time basis – and maybe it will be a good fit!

We are thrilled with each of these new members, and with the efforts to sponsor them – thank you to each sponsor and each supportive letter writer. Our garden club is in great shape, and the future is looking just wonderful, thanks to all the excitement and vitality new members bring to us.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Sprague, Admissions Chair