1. 2007 Activities

Racine/Kenosha
- Public seminar held in March covering a number of topics
- Greenworks – training in a greenhouse for challenged individuals; many have successfully obtained jobs in green industry

Milwaukee/Waukesha
- First-ever Milwaukee County Fair
- New enabling gardens area at State Fair
- Education at plant sale
- Launched financial planning committee to define and prioritize use of funds

Ozaukee/Washington
- Public gardens
- Collaboration with nursing homes on gardens
- Bird baths - artist decorated, displayed and later sold; gardening related lectures held in conjunction with bird bath displays
- Herb series in conjunction with Herb Society sale
- Fundraiser – heritage tomatoes and peppers
- Demo gardens
- County fair

Jefferson (formed in March 2007) – about 25 members
- Plant sale and education
- County fair
- Collaborating with Rotary Gardens and Johnson’s Creek

Racine/Kenosha
- Developed handbook and roster with UWEX-MGV FAQS and requirements
- Project committee to review all projects

2. Future Objectives

Racine/Kenosha
- Increase member participation in activities
- Launch more committees such as long-range planning and retention\(^1\)
- Will include bylaws in annual MGV handbook

Milwaukee/Waukesha
- 2008 Master Gardener Conference
- Hosts two educational programs each month
- Review bylaws
- Membership survey

Ozaukee/Washington

\(^1\) Statewide, about 60% of Master Gardeners are lost over a 10-year period. WIMGA has developed and distributed retention strategies state-wide.
Collaborative UWEX-Master Gardener Meeting Minutes
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- Refine organization and rules to make things run smoothly

Jefferson
- Retention
- Refining organization
- Hire a new permanent agent
- Community gardens
- Education
- Creating speakers’ bureau

3. Past Successes +

Racine/Kenosha
- 50/50 Raffle (Raffle tickets sold at start of meeting; the “pot” is split 50/50 between the chosen ticket holder and the MGV group); Funds are used for the organization’s speakers’ fee
- Working with Johnson’s Wax on replanting Zoo
- Hosted 2004 State Conference when new, young organization

4. Factors that Determine Success

- Inclusion
- Members
- One enthusiastic, dynamic and/or committed person to organize
- Planning, organizing, supervising and process control

5. Factors that Hinder Success

- Lack of appreciation
- Lack of recognition
- Not enough participation
- Lack of communication
- Lack of organization / supervision
- Too many projects
- Burn out

6. Number of Members & Projects

- Racine/Kenosha 160 members; 30 projects
- Milwaukee/Waukesha 400 members (includes dues paying but inactive);
  60 gardens; 25 activities; 10 events; 80 presentations
- Ozaukee/Washington 150 members; projects unknown
- Jefferson 25 members; 12 projects

7. Pertinent Issues

Transferring Hours between Counties
If volunteer outside own county, report to own “home” county
If relocating to another county, contact your home county UWEX office to transfer records to your “new” county UWEX office.

**Voting Policies**
- Racine/Kenosha – have to be certified MGV to vote
- Milwaukee/Waukesha – inactive, non-certified MGVs can vote
- Walworth – allows non-voting associate members in gardening industry

**Meeting structure**

**Kenosha/Racine**
- 6:30 – 7:30 pm Potluck supper
- Educational program
- Business meeting
- 50/50 Raffle winner chosen

**Ozaukee/Washington**
- Short committee pre-meeting
- Programs/education at 7:00 pm

**Jefferson**
- Committee pre-meeting
- Educational program pm

**Milwaukee/Waukesha**
- Committee meeting (1\textsuperscript{st} Wednesday)
- Business meeting (2\textsuperscript{nd} Wednesday)
- Educational program meetings (3\textsuperscript{rd} and 4\textsuperscript{th} Wednesdays; alternating morning and evening)

**8. 2008 Midwest Regional Master Gardener Conference**

**Gardening Through the Continuum of Life**
(Twelve states and Southern Canada)

- July 16-19, 2008 - Wednesday through Saturday
- **Thursday**
  - Six tours
  - Dinner
- **Friday**
  - Four breakout sessions
  - Dinner & Conference Speaker
- **Saturday**
  - Keynote Speaker
  - Breakout sessions
  - Wisconsin State Conference

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\textsuperscript{2} MGVs cannot transfer membership to another county mid-year; by paying dues, MGVs could be members of two (or more) counties.
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SEWMG hopes that MGVs from other counties will attend and volunteer to help at conference and/or to meet/greet garden tours across Milwaukee/Waukesha counties

9. **Interest in Combined/Regional Workshop** (at a future date)
   - One day (or less)
   - Central location
   - Brainstorm subject/speaker ideas

10. **WIMGA**
   - Creating a speaker database; provide information to Mike Iselin
   - Dues may be raised
   - $5 dues does not cover cost of newsletter
     Only 125 of 3000 MGVs are receiving electronic version of newsletter
     Encourage MGVs to subscribe (Web with link/ListServ/Newsletter)

11. **Evaluation of Meeting / Worthwhile?**
   - *Yes!*  *Schedule for first week/November in 2008*