

**DORMA GREEN'S, DISTRICT IV DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON CLUB ACTIVITIES
AT THE
GCA SPRING CONVENTION IN OPELIKA, ALABAMA
APRIL 15, 2024**

5 CLUBS

(120 Members) (44 Life Members) (2 Deep South Members) (1 National Member)

**We won a total of 46 awards at the 2023 Spring Convention at Orange Beach.
(42-State Awards) (3-Deep South Awards) (1 National Award)**

Since last spring's convention, we have had two District IV Officers to pass away, **Rollanda Cothran** (age 70)- District IV Treasurer from the Greensboro Garden Club died June 22, 2023 and **Charlotte Owens** (age 72) – District IV Secretary and President of the Southside Garden Club in Demopolis died March 31, 2024. These two deaths have been a total shock to our district. Please keep their families in your prayers.

1. Our clubs continue to be very involved in the beautification of our communities by landscaping and maintaining public areas which includes cemeteries, businesses, schools, libraries, town medians and welcome centers, ~~schools~~ churches, and the VA Medical Center. Also, we encourage personal gardening by recognizing a "Yard of the Month".

2. We place bluebird houses in various locations in our communities every year.

3. In recognition of Arbor Day the Goldenrod Club planted 20 oak trees and 10 other trees, the Fayette Club planted a variety of 20 trees and Tuscaloosa/Northport Club planted 5 apple trees and also donated \$68 to "Pennies for Pines". Our clubs have planted a total of 55 trees not counting the donated money for pines to be planted. The Greensboro club has 4 maple trees still to be planted.

4. We are actively involved in "Feed America". Our clubs donate food or money to various food banks, including Stillman College and the University of Alabama food banks.

5. Our clubs are actively involved in our schools by either reading books like “The Saved Seed” to elementary children or teaching about Pollinators or container gardening. Ceres and Tuscaloosa/Northport clubs work together on several educational projects many of which are funded by grants. Container gardening projects are also used to involve our senior citizens living in senior housing facilities.

Also, the Fayette Club was instrumental in Bevill State Community College starting a garden club for their students.

6. Some clubs, decorate their towns for fall, Veteran’s Day, Christmas and even Easter. The Fayette club not only decorates but also sponsors their town’s annual fall “Frog Level Festival”, the “Veteran’s Tree Lighting” ceremony and “Christmas in the Park”. Many clubs place American flags on Veterans’ graves on Memorial Day, 4th of July and Veterans’ Day.

7. Every year most of our clubs join together in Tuscaloosa to decorate the Jemison House and Battle Friedman House for Christmas. On Friday of this week after decorating these houses many of our District IV members travel to Montgomery to participate in “Every Light a Prayer for Peace” which includes afternoon tea at the governors’ mansion and the tree lighting ceremony at the Capitol at night. This year our District and District I are responsible for bring the food to the tea.

8. All clubs are very involved in recycling. (aluminum cans, egg cartons, paper products, and plastic bottles and bags.)

9. This year a major emphasis has been placed on new membership. So far we have gained 16 new members. Congratulations to the Fayette Club for leading our membership drive with 13 new members. We are also placing emphasis on State Life Memberships.

10. Our clubs have been very busy editing and updating our District ByLaws, forms and procedurers.

11. Each year our clubs earn extra money to support our projects by having plant, yard, and bake sales. As a District we are learning more about grant applications available to us and are planning to research and apply for some of these grants.

Cindy Boone, President of the Tuscaloosa/Northport Club has already applied and received several grants.

12. Our clubs try to have guest speakers at their monthly meetings to enrich their programs and increase their knowledge.

We do so many things that I can't list all of them because the clubs in District IV are definitely working hard workers. Our club members love their communities, want to improve them and bring awareness to the public about the importance of gardening and getting involved in the community to make it a better place to live now and in the future.