

President's Message

May 5, 2020

400 Years of Holidays on Cape Cod

Dear friends and fellow members;

When accepting the presidency of The Garden Club of Hyannis, I took my responsibility for the whole club, the entity and its members, very seriously. So, after a great deal of thought, listening to expert opinions, and input from 98.75% of our members, the decision *was reached to postpone* our November 2020 showcase to November 2021.

The health and well-being of our members and guests are my primary concern in the decision. I've listened to the scientists who opine that a second wave of COVID-19, plus flu may resurge in the fall; that a vaccine may not be available until early next year. (Will it be effective, and widely available?) The vulnerability of our members and guests is a prime concern. Nearly all of us fall within the age group of higher vulnerability, many of us have at least one other immunocompromised condition, or live with people who do. This is a highly contagious disease that spreads exponentially. The event is held in an enclosed space where it would be difficult to practice social distancing.

The results of the survey are as follows:

- 1) **Postpone, 59.4% yes**, 14.5% go on this Nov., 26% various
- 2) Halt committee work, 36.2% no, but halt spending, 33.3% yes, 30.5% various.
- 3) When to decide, 26.9% now, 49.3% after 5/4, 23% July.
- 4) **Work in committee, 65.7% no**, 34.3% yes.
- 5) **Work at Cultural Center. 62.7% no**, 37.3% yes.
- 6) **Overwhelmingly our members feel that the show should be postponed.** Some of those who would not participate this November are chairmen or room captains. The results will remain **confidential** because respondents were asked for their personal opinions, which I value greatly.

There is no crystal ball. However, in postponing, the likelihood of having a more financially successful showcase is greater, after the economy has had a chance to recover. I also feel postponing now is preferable to having to do it at the last minute in late summer or early fall.

Thank you to all who are working so diligently to produce a spectacular Showcase for 2020 especially, Kathie Schatz and Deb Faulconer, and the Advisory Board. We will

simply be putting our efforts on hold for a year, and will have more time to prepare the following year.

And thank you to the committee chairmen and room captains, and indeed, all members who have been involved in this important fundraising effort. We will continue when it is safe to do so.

As we face this new and disappointing time, please keep in mind The Garden Club Creed: to paraphrase, to *act in the spirit of kindness and fellowship, let our aims be united, to serve with an open mind...and invest each with friendliness and good will.*

Wishing you all health and safety,
Gail