

## *Sample letter for Boards of Directors to the membership of their local Master Gardener Organization*

Adapted from a letter to Kitsap County MG Foundation members



The board has just completed a series of membership meetings to talk about changes in the organization this year. In order to respect each volunteer's constitutional right of free association, foundation membership will no longer be automatic or mandatory. Everyone will have the opportunity to choose if, in addition to their duties as master gardeners, they also want to join the group pledged to provide extra support to the program. *Again, foundation membership will no longer be automatic for all certified master gardeners.*

We are asking current members to decide if they wish to be a member in the future and, if so, to complete a membership application. There are several reasons for this change but the most important reason is this: the responsibilities of a Master Gardener and the responsibilities of a Master Gardener Foundation member are not the same. In our role as Master Gardeners, we represent WSU in performing or assisting with horticulture education for the community. The Foundation, however, exists to raise money to benefit the Master Gardener program. Foundation members will spend time planning, organizing and running diverse fundraising projects such as plant sales, speaker series, and gift wrapping at Barnes and Noble, as well as pursuing grants for specific needs.

If you were unable to attend one of the membership meetings, and would like to join the foundation, please fill out the membership application included in this newsletter and follow the instructions on the form for mailing it back.