

7. **Besides attending meetings, what role do General Members play:** “General members play a very important role in a horticultural society. General members are responsible for electing the board of directors, approving the financial statements, and participating in the activities and programs of the Society. General members also contribute to the Society’s objectives of promoting horticulture, civic beautification, environmental awareness, and community involvement. General members can enjoy the benefits of learning from experts, sharing experiences with fellow gardeners, and accessing resources and information from the OHA.” ~ excerpt from Gardenontario.org
  
8. **Junior Gardener Programs:** *Security Code of Conduct /insurance/VS police checks have curtailed volunteer involvement.* These are **absolutely necessary** to have in place for the protection of the children/youth in your junior gardener program. These documents **also provide protection for the volunteer leaders** from charges /lawsuit resulting from a claim of misconduct towards a child. It is the leader’s only protection and line of defense. In my personal opinion, anyone not willing to sign/obtain these documents would raise a red flag that you may not want them working with your children.
  
9. **Society Board Meetings:** Be prepared, be early and bring the needed documentation. Come in with an open mind, leaving your ego/personal issues/past grievances at the door. Turn off your phones. It’s a common courtesy to have only one person talking at a time. Don’t interrupt or start a whispered side meeting. When you participate, pay attention to your body language and tone of voice. Challenge the idea, not the person. Remember, these are all volunteers, just like you. Respect everyone.
  
10. **Thank you to Dian Chute:** Dian wasn’t able to be with us today, but I wanted to thank her for her many years of dedication and service to the District, the Societies, and the OHA. Dian stepped in as District Director at a most difficult time, just a few weeks prior to District 10 hosting the virtual OHA Convention 2021. Thanks to the ongoing support of Jim Mabee (Former D10 Director) and the District 10 board, Dian got up to speed quickly and did an amazing job! Thank you, Dian!