

COMMUNITY DIVERSITY GROUP COMMITTEES

FY2026

CDG welcomes members of the wider community to join our efforts to implement our mission and vision by becoming a member of CDG. CDG's initiatives are organized by committee; persons interested in becoming more involved may join one of the committees listed below. Contact LaGrangeDiversity@gmail.com to be put in touch with the committee chair for more information.

Per CDG Bylaws, Committee members who are also CDG members in good standing (with paid-up memberships) are considered active members of the organization and are given voting privileges at the annual members meeting in June.

Executive. The President, Vice President(s), Secretary and Treasurer constitute an Executive Committee, which has the authority to deal with any emergency matter which may occur that cannot await action at a regular Board Meeting. At the next regular Board Meeting, the Committee reports on all actions taken by it after the last regular meeting of the Board. Plans the Annual Meeting.

- FY2025-26 Officers: Marian Honel-Wilson (President); Cathy Pierson (Vice President); Becky Lorentzen (Treasurer); Beth Wallace (Secretary)

Nominating. This committee consists of the Executive Committee (except for the President) and at least one other director appointed by the Officers. The Nominating Committee will provide a nominee for each officer and board member-at-large position to be filled for the ensuing two years. The recommendations of the Nominating Committee will be sent to the board of directors for approval at the May meeting. Once approved by the board of directors, the recommendations of the Nominating Committee will be sent to all voting members as soon as possible, but no later than five days before the Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee shall also consider any other nominees suggested by voting members.

- FY2026 (to be determined, for election of officers and directors at the annual meeting in June 2026)

Civic. This committee provides community outreach to local governmental agencies and business associations to support and promote Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI):

- By attending Village of La Grange board meetings (Becky, Harold, Marian)
- By attending Park District of La Grange Board meetings (Marian)
- By attending board meetings of the La Grange Public Library (Marian)
- By meeting with the La Grange police and fire chiefs (Harold, Becky, Ken, Linda, Marian, Jim)
- By attending La Grange Business Association meetings to create connections with the local business and nonprofit communities (Becky, Marian)
- By attending LWVLGA affordable housing committee meetings (Marian)
- FY2026 Committee members: Becky Lorentzen (Chair), Linda Eastman, Ken Eastman, Harold Gibson, Marian Honel-Wilson, Jim Wilson

Community Education. Organizes and/or partners with other organizations to organize programs to educate the community regarding DEI. Ongoing and potential future events include:

- Annual Summer Read & Book Discussion (Marian)
- Annual Building Inclusive Communities Conference (Cathy, Marian)
- Crossroads Antiracism Workshop Follow up 10/15/24 and 5/1/25 (Becky, Ken, Linda, Marian)
- FY2026 Committee members: Ken Eastman, Linda Eastman, Marian Honel-Wilson, Becky Lorentzen, Cathy Pierson, Willa Shultz

CDG Committees

Marketing Communications. This committee prepares marketing and branding materials for use at events (i.e., tablecloth, logo, letterhead, banner) and promotional materials for each event, and promotes CDG on social media platforms and elsewhere as appropriate. Manages website & coordinates communications with Press inquiries or outreach.

- FY2026 Committee members: (No Chair), Marian Honel-Wilson, Becky Lorentzen, Beth Wallace

Diversity Days Planning. This committee plans the annual Diversity Days activities which consist of:

- A movie night (typically held the Friday before the 2nd Sunday in September), the annual Race Unity Rally (2nd Sunday in September), and other related activities.
- FY2026 Committee members: Marian Honel-Wilson and Linda Eastman (Co-Chairs)

Education. This committee supports and promotes DEI in local elementary, middle and high schools:

- By attending school board meetings (D102 – Becky; D105 – Marian; D106 – Gioia; D204 – Becky, Gioia)
- May also outreach to Parent Teacher Organizations or other stakeholders.
- FY2026 Committee members: Gioia Giannotti Frye, Marian Honel-Wilson, Becky Lorentzen

Scholarship. This committee supports equity in education by promoting and providing an annual scholarship program to enable scholarship recipients to attend a summer program of their choosing. The committee solicits donations to the scholarship fund, distributes applications through local schools and camp organizations, evaluates applications, awards scholarships and plans and hosts a scholarship dinner on the 3rd Friday in May to celebrate scholarship winners.

- FY2026 Committee members: Becky Lorentzen (Chair), Marian Honel-Wilson, Cathy Pierson, Beth Wallace, Kathleen Valenti, Vanessa Deaton

Strategic Planning. Conducts review of CDG's administrative documents including vision/mission and bylaws, evaluates CDG's function and structure, as well as strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Designs and prepares the Annual Report. This committee meets as necessary to review and re-evaluate these issues. The committee also assists the Executive Committee in planning the Annual Meeting.

- FY2026 Committee members: Harold Gibson (Chair), Ken Eastman, Linda Eastman, Gioia Giannotti Frye, Marian Honel-Wilson, Becky Lorentzen, Beth Wallace