

Texas State Master Gardener Association
State Directors Meeting
December 1, 2012

Call to order and Opening Remarks – Brenda Cunningham, Dallas County.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00am. The President welcomed new attendees and all directors, alternates, and guests.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance – Wayne Rhoden, Williamson County.

A Memorial Recognition was given by Brenda Cunningham, Dallas County, for George Ammermann. She mentioned his many contributions to the Texas Master Gardeners, following his passing this year.

The Secretary, Karen Colwick, Bell County, reported the Directors from the following Counties were in attendance: Angelina, Austin/Colorado/Fayette/Washington, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Brazos, Burnet, Collin, Comal, Dallas, Ector/Midland, Fort Bend, Galveston, Grimes, Harris, Henderson, Hood, Jefferson, Milam, Montague, Montgomery, Nueces, Parker, Smith, Somervell, Tarrant, Taylor, Travis, Wichita, Williamson, and Wood County. There were a total of 61 directors, officers and guests who attended the meeting.

Officers and Committee Members attending represented Aransas/San Patricio, Bell, Dallas, Parker, Somervell, Tarrant, Victoria, and Williamson Counties.

Guests attending were from Dallas, Ector/Midland, Grimes, Harris, and Hood Counties.

Review and Approval of August 4, 2012 Minutes – President-Brenda Cunningham.

A motion made to accept the minutes by Wayne Rhoden, Williamson County, with second made by Velda Cuclis, Galveston County. The motion carried and the Minutes for August 4, 2012 were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Donna Hagar, Somervell County.

A. 2012 Year to Date Financial Report - Donna Hagar reported the Financial Report is online. For the record, there were \$3900 in expenses, and the current Budget will show a negative balance by the years end as the budget originally showed a shortfall. This was expected.

B. 2013 Proposed Budget - Donna reported the budget for 2013 was completed together with the proposed new Treasurer Doug Richards, from Hood County. President Brenda Cunningham said the TMGA is open for ideas for increasing revenues. A motion to accept the 2013 Budget was made by JoAnn Hahn from Tarrant County, and a Second was made by Kathy Murray, Hood County. The motion was voted on and the 2013 Budget was approved.

Standing Committee Reports.

A. Awards Committee – Mary and Paul Meredith, Victoria County.

The Award System is moving forward as planned. People are checking out the conference handbook on the website. Members fill out forms, edit entries online, and send all emails by way of their President or County Agent. There will be a member of the Awards Committee to ‘shepherd’ groups of Counties and help with the process. Members on this Committee include Kathy Murray, Hood County, Nancy Bardouche, Burnet County, and Lisa Nixon, Bexar County.

B. Conference Planning - Duddly Hargrove, Dallas County.

Committee members include Doug Richards, Hood County, Donna Hagar, Somervell County, Bunny Williams, Dallas County, and new members Lisa Nixon and Lou Kellogg, Bexar County. Duddly would like members from future conference sites to join the Committee. The 2013 Conference is scheduled in McAllen, and the Conference for 2014 is in Ector/Midland Counties (Odessa, Midland). Also two other counties are considering hosting the 2015 conference, one of them is Bell County. The Committee is also working on a Conference Survey to be distributed prior to the 2013 Conference.

C. 2013 TMGA Conference -Duddly Hargrove, Dallas County.

At today’s meeting we connected with Jennifer Herrera, Cameron County CEA and Hidalgo County CEA, Barbara Storz, through Lync, the Texas A&M site for distance learning. They shared their preparations for the 2013 TMGA Conference. Casa de Palmas will serve as the host hotel. The Conference Website is listing hotels within 3 miles of the Convention center. Also a shuttle Service from many hotels will be available. The Conference is scheduled for October 17-19, 2013. The registration fee is not set yet, but should be available by February 2013. Check out the conference Speakers and workshops on the website. Also visit their Facebook page, look for 2013 Texas Master Gardeners Conference. It was so exciting to see their conference website on Lync at the meeting today..

D. Newsletter - Nicky Maddams, Grimes County.

Nicky announced she is now a certified Master Gardener. She said some members are having trouble getting into ‘Goggle Docs’ documents in the newsletter. Members present said they had difficulty getting into the TMGA Website to view the minutes and budget. Many did not get the Eblast sent by Donna Hagar. She recommends going through the local chapter Web person and that person send the Eblast again to their membership. Nicky would also like to have photographs to include in the Newsletter. Remember, to get the TMGA Newsletter you may subscribe or get the rosters to Nicky.

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The President announced it is time to fill out or resubmit the roster form for 2013. They are online. It needs to be done quickly! It is also time to complete the chartering forms. These forms need to be turned in by Jan.31, 2013. The Rosters and Charters are critical for accurate record keeping by Jayla Fry for the Texas A&M Extension Agency.

E. Outreach – Eleanor Tuck, Tarrant County.

Eleanor expressed thanks to Lisa Nixon from Bexar County, who sent a list of San Antonio conference attendees to the Outreach Committee. Eleanor has been able to contact the County Agents from counties who had attendees but no affiliation with Texas Master Gardeners Association. On a happy note, several counties have been honored by being invited by TCEQ, or the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, to compete in several categories for awards. TCEQ has asked Permian Basin Master Gardeners, and Tarrant County Master Gardeners, to submit entries. The Commission is looking online and through news media to find groups doing environmentally friendly projects.

F. Special Tax Advisory – Wayne Rhoden, Williamson County.

The IRS acknowledged receiving our 501(c)(3) forms. In August, Doug Richards, Hood County and Donna Hagar, Somervell County, attended an IRS workshop and will be sharing much of what they learned at our February 2, 2013. This is an important presentation. Bring your chapter President, officers, ESPECIALLY YOUR TREASURER and even your COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT. Make sure you are following all the guidelines. You may be in for a surprise.

G. TMGA Website – Ron Williford, Comal County.

Ron was unable to be present but sends us word he is learning how to create a QR stamp which could be a valuable tool. He has also learned how to collect data from the TMGA website. For example, between mid-October and mid-November of this year, there were 1,582 hits and 63% of those were new viewers. If you have had trouble on the website it was due to an annual security audit required by Texas A&M over the last six weeks. Passwords seem to be working Friday, November 30th.

Unfinished business

A. Off-Site Meeting Attendance.

TMGA held a trial run today using Lync to connect with Cameron, Hidalgo, and Gregg Counties. Today Directors heard from Cameron County and Hidalgo County as they were able to share their plans and information on the 2013 Conference via live feed. We were able to view their Conference Website, and have our questions answered live. The state TMGA Association is working to make live conferencing more than a possibility.

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B. Chihuly –The Chihuly Exhibit at the Dallas Arboretum has been extended until December 31, 2012. Evening hours have changed so check before going. Reservations are required for evening events.

New Business

A. 2014 Conference Request- Ector/Midland County.

Ector/Midland has requested \$5000 seed money to prepare for the 2014 Conference. The Treasurer stated that the money would be available in January when the new Budget takes effect. The TMGA had already contributed \$5000 to Cameron County and Hidalgo County this year, for the 2013 Conference. A motion was made by SanDee Pitman, Montague County, to give the seed money to Ector/Midland when the money becomes available in January. The motion was seconded by Nancy Nance, Dallas County. The motion was voted on and passed.

B. Nomination/Election of Officers for 2013 TMGA Executive Committee.

The slate of officers was presented to the Directors by Nominating Chairpersons and Past President, Lonnie Matthew, Aransas/San Patricio. Candidate for President, Ginger Bason was unable to be present, due to a death in the family. The rest of the slate of officers is as follows: First Vice President is Donna Hagar, Treasurer is Doug Richards, and Secretary is Karen Colwick. A motion was made by Mary Castle, Travis County and second by Wayne Rhoden, Williamson County to accept the slate of officers presented for a vote. The motion was amended by a motion by Mary Kasti, Travis County, and second by Tony Lucenti, Jefferson County to accept the slate of officers by acclamation. The amended motion was presented and passed by acclamation. Our officers are for 2013 as listed: President-Ginger Bason –Tarrant County, First Vice-President – Dick Coupe, Dallas County, Second Vice-President – Donna Hagar, Somervell County, Treasurer-Doug Richards, Hood County, Secretary – Karen Colwick, Bell County.

C. Passing of the Gavel (Ginger Bason was not present).

D. Future Meeting Dates 2013.

1. February 2, 2013 (IRS presentation)
2. May 4, 201
3. August 3, 2013
4. October 17-19 Conference (No meeting)
5. December 7, 2013

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State MG Coordinator Update – Jayla Fry.

1. Jayla Fry reminded everyone that the State Chartering forms are available on the TMGA Website, and are to be completed by the chapter president and CEA, by January 31, 2013. Jayla stressed the importance of completing the roster and charter forms in a timely manner. The roster is important for TMGA as it is used for sharing information with chapters and individual chapter members.
2. It is important to report all volunteer hours and turn in to your chapter. Each County Agent records them for his/her part of record keeping. They then go to Jayla, who will use the data in reports to the Texas A&M Extension Office. Some counties even display a “mock” cashiers check showing how much they have made for the local Extension Agency by converting volunteer hours into dollars.
3. Jayla then presented outgoing President Brenda Cunningham with her Past-President’s Pin, and a plaque recognizing her leadership this year. Brenda’s name will be placed on a plaque along with other presidents who have served TMGA and kept at the Extension Service Office at Texas A&M University.

Bexar County’s Lou Kellogg presented all the board members with poinsettias from the members of Bexar County Master Gardeners.

The President had Jayla Fry draw names for two door prizes for two lucky directors.

The meeting adjourned at 1:35pm.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Colwick, Secretary
December 6, 2012