

**TEXAS MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**College Station, Texas**  
**May 4, 2013**

**Officers Attending:**

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; and Past President, Brenda Cunningham, Dallas County.

**Directors/Alternates and Committee members from the following Counties were present:**

Angelina, Austin/Fayette/Colorado/and Washington (Bluebonnet), Bell, Bexar, Brazoria, Brazos, Collin, Comal, Dallas, Ector/Midland (Permian Basin), Fort Bend, Galveston, Grimes, Guadalupe, Harris, Henderson, Hood (Lake Granbury), Jefferson, Leon, Milam (Little River Basin), Montague (Red River), Montgomery, Orange, Parker, Smith, Somervell, Tarrant, Taylor (Big Country), Travis, Victoria, Walker, Wichita, Williamson, and Wood.

Guests attending were from Bell, Collin, Comal, Hood, Orange, and Walker Counties.

**Call to Order and Opening Remarks** – President Ginger Bason, Tarrant County

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am. President Bason welcomed all Directors, Alternates and guests in attendance, as well as those who were attending the meeting through the LYNC network. El Paso, Nueces and Aransas/San Patricio counties had representatives attending remotely. Ms. Bason reminded everyone that it is their responsibility to share the information from today's meeting with their local association officers and general membership. She suggested that the Director's could ask to be put on the agenda of their local association meeting in order to share the information.

President Bason encouraged attendees that spend the night before or the night after a Director's meeting to make their reservations now for the August and December meetings. Due to the number of activities in the area, the availability of rooms can be limited. It was also suggested that those who are planning on attending the TMGA Conference in McAllen in October should select their hotel from the list provided on the conference website and make their room reservations now.

Ms. Bason informed the group that registration for the 2013 Conference will be available in the near future and she encouraged everyone to visit the Conference website where they can learn about the speakers and tours that will be available. One Director noted that he was aware that some TMGA members are not happy that some of the speakers and topics are the same as those offered in 2012 by Bexar County. Mr. Lou Kellogg, Bexar County, responded that the one speaker who spoke at the San Antonio Conference and who is scheduled to speak in McAllen will have a different topic. Ms. Bason said that she would ask that the host counties indicate that it will be a different topic in McAllen.

Ms. Bason thanked Duddy Hargrove, Dallas County, for his previous work with the TMGA Conference Planning Committee. She stated that the committee will now be called the Conference Committee and will be chaired by Past TMGA President, Homer Babbitt of Parker County.

President Bason introduced Past TMGA President Brenda Cunningham, Dallas County, as the Chair of the Nominating Committee. She stated that Ms. Cunningham would be available during the break for lunch to discuss volunteer opportunities with anyone who was interested in learning more about serving on the TMGA Executive Committee in 2014.

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:**

The invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance were led by Wayne Rhoden of Williamson County.

**Review and Approval of February 2, 2013 Minutes** - Ginger Bason, Tarrant County

The President asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the February 2, 2013 minutes that were posted on the TMGA website. As there were none, the minutes were approved as submitted. Ms. Hagar stated that a condensed version of the presentation that she made at the February 2 meeting is available and can be accessed through the TMGA website, [www.txmg.org](http://www.txmg.org).

**Treasurer's Report** – Doug Richards, Hood County

Mr. Richards reviewed the 2013 year-to-date financial documents. He stated that TMGA's income is from the dues of \$2.00 per member that the local associations pay to TMGA each year, pointing out that this amount is the same as it has been since inception. Mr. Richards also stated that the TMGA check register, budget and bank balance could be viewed online and that the documents were updated automatically when income was received or when checks were written so that the information was always current. Mr. Richards noted that our annual expenses are higher this year due to the increased number of members who have been trained as Specialists and who then request reimbursement after becoming certified, and the increased cost of the meal served at the Director's meetings.

During the discussion of financial matters, it was asked why the \$5,000.00 seed money that is provided to those counties that host our annual Conference is not repaid. There was an involved discussion about the role and responsibility of the TMGA regarding the annual Conference. It was agreed that if the practice of providing seed money to host counties who request it continues the TMGA funds will be depleted. This is something that the Conference Committee and the Executive Committee will continue to review.

**State Master Gardener Coordinator Update** - Jayla Fry

Ms. Fry provided a thorough demonstration of the new online hours reporting system that is available for use. The link for the program is [www.texas.volunteersystem.org](http://www.texas.volunteersystem.org). Ms. Fry stated that the Agents are aware of this program and she stressed that they have to agree before a local association can use the new system to report their volunteer and education hours. Once a county has decided to utilize the online hours reporting, Ms. Fry said that they must submit their member information to her using a template that she provides and their information is then uploaded for them.

Questions regarding the various facets of the program were answered throughout Ms. Fry's presentation and she demonstrated examples of how to enter information and generate reports when possible. Ms. Fry stated that she is available to assist with training when requested to do so.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

A. Awards Committee – Dick Coupe, Dallas County

Mr. Coupe, First Vice President and liaison to the Awards Committee, provided the report on behalf of Awards Co-Chairs, Mary and Paul Meredith, who were not able to attend the meeting. Mr. Coupe reported that 152 awards submissions were received from 41 of our 77 associations. He also noted that May 15, 2013 is the submission deadline for photos for all Outstanding Individual Master Gardener entries and for all Outstanding Master Gardener Association entries.

B. Conference Committee – Homer Babbitt, Parker County

Mr. Babbitt stated that he and committee members Donna Hagar, Somervell County, and Doug Richards, Hood County had met and identified the goals of the committee. Those goals are to define the role of their committee, including the specific areas of responsibility of TMGA and the hosting association, to develop a process to seek qualified candidates to host the annual TMGA Advanced Training Conference 2-3 years prior to the time they would host the Conference, to develop a TMGA Conference Handbook that will provide guidelines for the hosting association, and to study our practice of providing seed money to the hosting association when it is requested.

The Conference Committee will also develop a survey for all TMGA members to be sent in the near future and they encourage everyone to respond.

C. Newsletter - Nicky Maddams, Grimes County

Ms. Maddams reported that she will be recognizing a different association each month in the TMGA newsletter, and that Bell County will be featured soon. She asked that each Director ask their local association members what they would like to see in the newsletter and report that to her, noting that it could be a Master Gardener or a project that someone feels should be recognized.

D. Outreach - Eleanor Tuck, Tarrant County

Ms. Tuck provided a brief overview of what Outreach is, and recognized Ila Jean Carothers, McLennan County, for her work with Limestone County. She also reported that as a result of personal phone calls made by herself and President Bason to the local associations that had not yet submitted their dues, list of officers/directors, or charters, the outstanding items were reduced by half.

Ms. Tuck stated that this committee needs representation for the Lubbock area (Potter County and Randall County) and Travis County.

F. Special Tax Advisory - Wayne Rhoden, Williamson County

Mr. Rhoden reminded everyone that May 15 is the deadline for filing the 990N with the IRS for those associations with an annual income under \$50,000.00. He also reminded everyone to use their association EIN number and not the TMGA number.

G. Website - Ron Williford, Comal County

Mr. Williford reported that the "Upcoming Events" feature on the TMGA website can now receive local association events that will then be captured to the calendar. He noted that

Facebook submissions cannot upload so it is imperative that the information be submitted on the website. Mr. Williford also reported that activity on the TMGA website has increased 34 percent in the past year, including 416 hits from England.

H. Nominating Committee – Brenda Cunningham, Dallas County

Ms. Cunningham stated that the two positions on the TMGA Executive Committee that will need to be filled for 2014 are Second Vice President and Secretary. The slate of officers will be presented at the August Director's meeting and voted on at the December Director's meeting. She encouraged anyone who is interested in learning more about either of these positions contact her.

**Unfinished Business:**

A. Off-Site Meeting Attendance Report

Ms. Fry reported that in addition to members from the counties of El Paso, Nueces, and Aransas/San Patricio attending the meeting online today, the El Paso County Extension Agent also attended.

B. 2014 Conference

The dates for the 2014 Conference, hosted by the Permian Basin Master Gardeners, will be the last weekend in September.

**New Business:**

President Bason reported that the Director's meeting during the 2013 annual Conference is currently scheduled to be at 4:00 pm on Thursday, October 17, 2013. This change was requested to allow more people to travel on Thursday rather than Wednesday and thereby eliminate the requirement for an additional hotel night.

**Announcements:**

- A. Lou Kellogg, Bexar County, stated that they will host the Composting Specialist training in June. He also said that they had a fundraiser selling orchids for Mother's Day like the ones that were provided as door prizes at this meeting and to the TMGA Executive Board. Bexar County buys the plants through "guaranteed sales", meaning that customers pre-pay for the plants and only the number of plants that have been sold are ordered.
- B. Walker County Seed Exchange  
Representatives from Walker County invited other associations to participate in their seed exchange (see the May 2013 TMGA Newsletter).
- C. Door Prizes were given away throughout the day including the orchids provided by Bexar County Master Gardeners, 12 Preen products provided by Jayla Fry, and two rose plants provided by the Bluebonnet Master Gardeners (Austin/Fayette/Colorado/and Washington Counties).

The President, with a reminder about the August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, adjourned the meeting at 2:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Colwick, TMGA Secretary