

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE APRIL 13, 2007 MEETING

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TEXAS MASTAER GARDENER ASSOCIATION, INC.
Inn of the Hills Resort and Conference Center
Kerrville, Texas**

George J. Ammermann. Secretary

The following officers were present:

President Karen Bitnar; 1st Vice President Garey Wylie; Secretary George J. Ammermann; Treasurer Virginia Krebs; and Past President Jan Shannon.

The following associations were represented: Angelina, Aransas/San Patricio, Bexar, Brazoria, Collin, Comal, Dallas, Denton, El Paso, Ellis, Fannin, Fort Bend, Galveston, Guadalupe, Harris, Hood, Jefferson, Kerr, Lamar, McLennan, Midland/Ector, Montgomery, Nueces, Parker, Potter/Randall, Somervell, Tarrant, Taylor, Tom Green, Travis, Victoria, Walker, Wichita, and Wood.

Call to Order: President Karen Bitnar called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. George J. Ammermann gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: Sallie Bourgeois moved the minutes of the December 2, 2006 meeting be approved as posted on the web site.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer Virginia Krebs.

Balance as of November 30, 2006	\$29,112.18
Deposits	\$10,402.00
Disbursements	\$ 7,707.90

Balance as March 31, 2007	\$31,806.28
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The report is filed for audit.

Committee Reports:

Deb Martin Awards Chair gave a PowerPoint presentation describing how the placing of the associations for the awards was done. She also pointed out in case of ties the associations who were tied would each receive a plaque. There was a system of cross checks to ensure no bias was evident in the placements. Deb stressed that wording in the description of the materials entered for judging was very important.

Web Master Doug Richards gave a PowerPoint presentation showing the new homepage for the TMGA web site.

Each link was described in detail and instructions were given to help the directors find their way through the web site.

Doug stressed the “merchandise” link was for associations to list materials, etc. which they may have developed and wanted to sell. **NO COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS WILL BE LISTED ON THE WEB SITE.**

Karen Bitnar gave an update on the 2006 Annual Report. There are 4,718 active Master Gardeners in Texas who volunteered for a total of 369,072 hours. In 2006 there were 120 Master Gardeners trained in eight areas as Specialists.

Unfinished Business:

Wayne Rhoden gave an update on the IRS 501-c-3 application. It is still in the hands of the IRS. Hopefully we will get approval within the next two months. There are three counties who wish to be added as soon as we get the approval.

New Business:

Garey Wylie gave a PowerPoint program on suggestions for items to be considered in a new 5-year plan for TMGA

Suggestions included:

1. Develop State Master Gardener slogan (to generate excitement).
2. Increase TMGA membership. Possible discounts at nurseries, free admission to Botanic Gardens
3. Master Gardener yearly calendars
4. EarthKind Rose (Demo or Research) Garden in each county.
5. Assisting TXDOT in the planting of Bluebonnets in your county.
6. Additional Specialist Classes:
 - a. Lawn Care
 - b. Plant Pathology
 - c. House Plants
7. Yearly Budget
8. Membership Outreach, one person from each of the ten Extension Districts.
9. Web Site alternate to serve as assistant to Doug Richards.
10. Asker for suggestions for other items from the membership.

George J. Ammermann gave a preliminary report on proposed by-law changes. We are looking at moving some of the procedural statements to a “Standing Rules of Operation” document so that the by-laws remain clean and make it easier to make changed for operational procedures without having to post proposed changes and waiting for the annual meeting to vote on them. In the meantime as additional duty for the 2nd Vice President would include being a member of the awards committee. Also, the position historian would be removed from the standing committees

In order for our by-laws to be in compliance with the IRS requirements for the 501-c-3 statuses, it was recommended by motion that the Dissolution Clause be added as an appendix at this time. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Texas Master Gardener Association, Inc.

By-laws
Appendix A

Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more tax exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501-c- 3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such asset not disposed of shall be disposed of by the court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Karen Bitnar presented the budget for 2007. It was moved and seconded to accept the budget. Motion passed.

Ernie Edmundson, Chair of the nominating committee introduced the members for 2007. They are Fran Amuny, Jane Bartosiewicz and Wayne Rhoden.

Karen Bitnar announced no association has offered to host the conference for 2009. If interested please contact
Dr. Doug Welsh

There was much discussion concerning a memorial for Diane Welch, wife of Dr. William Welch. After several attempts to accept the amount of a memorial, Doug Richards moved and the motion was seconded by Fran Amuny, to send a sympathy card at this time and have the executive committee develop guidelines for memorials to be voted on at the August meeting and at that time to forward the memorial to the scholarship fund.

Karen Bitnar gave comments on the following correspondence:
Letter from Lisa Whittlesey, thanking TMGA for the continued support of the 4-H Roundup.
Thank-you from Lake Grandbury Master Gardener Association for the Commemorative Brick for Gene Retzloff.
NARFE – Dig into Retirement Become a Master Gardener

Doug Richards moved that the re-imbusement for completing Master Gardener Specialist training be increased from \$25.00 to \$50.00 effective January 1, 2007ds. The motion was seconded and passed

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

George J. Ammermann
Secretary, TMGA

Karen Bitnar
President, TMGA.