

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 1, 2007
OF THE
TEXAS MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION, INC

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

George J. Ammermann, Secretary

The following officers were present:

President Karen Bitnar, First Vice-President Garey Wylie, Secretary George J. Ammermann, Treasurer Virginia Krebs, Past President Jan Shannon and State Coordinator Dr. Doug Welsh

Directors from the following associations were present: Aransas/San Patricio, Bell, Brazos, Bluebonnet (Austin, Colorado, Fayette & Washington), Collin, Comal, Dallas, Denton, Ector/Midland (Permian Basin), Fort Bend, Galveston, Gregg, Grimes, Guadalupe, Harris, Hood, Jefferson, Johnson, Kerr (Hill Country), McLennan, Montague, Nueces, Parker, Potter/Randall, Tarrant, Travis, Victoria, Walker, Wichita, Williamson.

Dr. Doug Welsh stated the meeting would be recorded on the centra system, allowing members to listen to the proceedings.

Call to order: President Karen Bitnar called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m. George J. Ammermann gave the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: There being no additions or corrections, the Minutes of the August 4, 2006, meeting were approved as posted on the TMGA website.

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

Balance as of July 31, 2007	\$30,130.97
Deposits	\$ 44.00
Disbursements	\$ 1,730.50

Balance as of November 30, 2007	\$28,444.47
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The report is filed for audit.

Committee Reports:

Ginger Bason gave a report on the awards application. She stressed the application was shortened dramatically making it much easier for associations to enter the contest. She is hoping that all associations would at least enter in one of the categories. There is a change in the size category. 1 to 50 small, 50 to 100 medium, 101 to 200 medium large, 200 plus large. The size you enter is based on the number of Master Gardeners the local association has paid dues for as of December 31, 2007. The deadlines affecting eligibility

is based on the application being received by midnight January 22, 2008 and your 2008 dues being received by the treasurer by March 1, 2008. The committee has already received some applications. If you have questions contact her at gbason@hotmail.com .

Karen Bitnar gave a report for the web master, Doug Richards. Doug underwent heart surgery for a 5 bypass. It is necessary at this time to replace Doug so his health can continue to improve. We would like to find someone or some people to fill-in this important position. Doug Welsh stated a search is underway to fill this position. Don Tuff suggested that a job description be developed and posted so that members could get an idea as to the requirements necessary to fill this position.

Dr. Welsh gave an update and more history on the writing of his book *Texas Garden Almanac*. He also discussed Dave's Garden web site. He encouraged the directors to check out the website <http://www.davesgarden.com/edu> .It is important for directors to take messages back to the local membership. Lastly, Dr. Welsh discussed the name change for extension, as of January 9, 2008, the new name and logo will be made public with training sessions for agents. We will have a year to convert to the new name "Agrilife Extension Service."

Gayla Christiansen of Texas A&M Press reported on the ordering of Dr. Welsh's new book. Don Tuff requested she have book displays at future Director Meetings so that purchases could be made and there would be no shipping charges, etc involved.

Unfinished business:

Wayne Rhoden reported we have received the acceptance of our application for the 501(c)(3) umbrella application. Wayne said that if any association not being 501(c)(3) organizations could take advantage of becoming included by letting him know so he could add them. This would be a considerable financial advantage as they would not have to pay the filing fee which would be required if an association files a separate application. The number that we must use is 5415, this is the number to be used when requesting donations, etc on the basis of our being not-for-profit organization under IRS guidelines.

Garey Wiley discussed the 5 year plan which was developed this year. Garey encouraged everyone to continue to work to make TMGA more exciting and beneficial to the member associations.

Neal Cochran stated Williamson County would host the JMG Specialist Training session in Apr 2008.

George J. Ammermann discussed an Out Reach plan, to divide the state into the 12 Extension Districts and appoint representatives from these districts to serve as a contact person for the area. He further stated he would like to get the committee members as soon as possible, if any one is interested please let him know. The 2008 year will be a development period and any suggestions as to how we can make TMGA more effective will be appreciated.

George J. Ammermann. Presented the following By-laws change recommendations:

Duties of the 2nd Vice President:

Add: Be a member of the Awards Committee.

Jan Shannon moved the proposal be accepted. Ginger Bason seconded. Motion carried.

Standing Committees:

Remove: Historian

Sallie Bourgeois moved the proposal be accepted. Neil Cochran seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

Karen Bitnar presented a short update on the 2008 Conference. Speakers have been secured. Registration packet should be available soon.

The group from Harrison County will give an update for the 2009 Conference at the 2008 Conference

Presentation of nominees for 2008 TMGA officers.

Wayne Rhoden presented the following slate nominated by the nominating committee.

President – Garey Wylie, Johnson County

First Vice-President – Doug Quicksall, McLennan County

Second Vice- President – Lynn McKillop, Fort Bend County

Secretary – Brenda Cunningham, Dallas County

Treasurer – Homer Babbitt, Parker County

Wayne Rhoden asked for nominations from the floor for each office. There were no nominations from the floor.

It was moved to elect the slate by acclamation. Motioned was seconded and carried.

Dr. Doug Welsh presented Karen Bitnar with her Past Presidents pin for 2008, and a commemorative seal from the Cooperative Extension. He also stated her individual plaque would be forth coming and her name added to the plaque for past presidents.

Karen Bitnar thanked all for their support and was very grateful for the experience.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

George J. Ammermann
TMGA Secretary 2007

Karen Bitnar
TMGA President 2007