

Official Minutes
Texas Master Gardeners Association, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
February 18, 2012

Officers present:

Ginger Bason, 1st Vice President; Homer Babbitt, Past President; Karen Colwick, Secretary; Dick Coupe, 2nd Vice President; Brenda Cunningham, President; and Donna Hagar, Treasurer.

Directors and Alternates from the following chapters and counties were present:

Angelina, Aransas/San Patricio, Austin/Colorado, Bexar, Blanco, Brazos, Burnet, Collin, Comal, Dallas, Denton, Ector/Midland, Fort Bend, Gonzales, Grimes, Henderson, Hood, Johnson, Lamar, Leon, Milam, Montgomery, Nueces, Parker, Rusk, Smith, Somervell, Tarrant, Taylor, Tom Green, Travis, Walker, Wichita, Williamson, and Wood County.

Guests from the following counties were also present:

Gonzales, McLennan, Montgomery, Somervell and Victoria County.

Call to Order-at 11:00 a.m. by President Brenda Cunningham.

Pledge and Invocation-were led by Wayne Rhoden, Williamson County.

Welcome:

The President recognized the Past Presidents of TMGA, as well as all chapter presidents, and any new directors. The Secretary, Karen Colwick, Bell County, was asked to read off the names of the counties represented at the meeting.

Donna Hagar was recognized as being named "Citizen of the Year" in Glen Rose.

Minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of December 3, 2011, which were online, were presented by President Brenda Cunningham, and approved after a motion made by Mary Meredith of Victoria County, and was seconded by Wayne Rhoden, of Williamson County. They were approved by a majority of the members.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report, presented by Donna Hagar, Somervell County is online at the TMGA website. The report covered all expenses from December to February. The total TMGA account as of February 18, 2012 is \$33,277.

Donna reminded Directors that dues are due by March 1, 2012 and rosters and charters are needed from each chapter. A list of counties for which there are no rosters was listed.

2011 Audit Report:

Doug Quicksall, McClennan County, Audit Committee Chairman, on 'Finance and Budget', stated that he had met with Donna Hagar and viewed all financial records, including computer reports, and discussed any deficiencies. He complimented her for handling TMGA finances efficiently and in a timely manner.

Program: Howdy Farms

Brady Grimes, the senior manager of 'Howdy Farms', presented an informative program related to agri-projects called 'student farms'. This program provides a classroom setting and practical experiential gardening, and opportunities for marketing and management study. Students created an actual working farm with on-going research, marketing to outside sources, helping local growers with problems, and provide a model for other universities for training and research.

12:15 Break for Lunch

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. 2012 TMGA Conference Report-Lou Kellogg and Lisa Nixon, Bexar County

Lou and Lisa reminded us that the Conference is in San Antonio on May 3rd through the 5th. Classes and workshops will be held Thursday and Friday, with the Directors meeting occurring on Thursday at 3:45 to 4:45pm. All tours will occur Saturday and are \$50. Space for conference participants is limited, due to the venue site, so all are encouraged to register soon. There will be a plant sale sponsored by Bexar Co featuring Texas 'Super Star' plants during the conference. There will also be a sale of tomatoes with proceeds going to their JMG program.

A PowerPoint presentation of the tour destinations for Saturday, May 5th was shown. The featured speaker for the Banquet will be Mary Sue Koontz, and special prizes for Friday's banquet were shown. There will not be extra tour tickets, but those wanting extra banquet tickets can email the conference site and be put on a waiting list.

New hybrid red bluebonnet plants were given to the directors from Midland who had traveled the farthest. They were Geriann Green and Barbara Porsche. Bexar County also reminded us that Specialist Training in *Composting* and *Junior Master Gardening* for teachers is up-coming this spring and summer.

B. Awards Committee-Mary and Paul Meredith, Victoria County

Paul stated that they looked at dues-paying members and tried to check all early applications for errors. Despite software problems and problems with agents holding forms, there was a 23% increase in entries with 32 more entries totaling 171. The Committee is going to ask the judges for more comments, and encouraged anyone with questions to check the online Q and A site. The President thanked the Committee for their hard work.

Lou Kellogg from San Antonio stated that displays could be set up Thursday morning, May 3.

C. Newsletter-Donna Hagar, Somervell County

Donna announced she was about to send out the Newsletter. She needs someone from each chapter with interns to upload their email addresses and send them to her so interns can get the TMGA newsletter. Donna asked for someone to volunteer to take over the Newsletter.

D. Nominating Committee Report-Brenda Cunningham, Dallas County

The Nominating Committee led by Lonnie Mathew, Past President, Homer Babbitt, immediate Past President, and Barbara Porsche, Ector/Midland County were presented as our Nominating Committee for the year.

E. Outreach-Eleanor Tuck, Tarrant County

Eleanor Tuck, Dick Coupe, and their committee are working hard to reach all chapters having inactive or no designated directors. Eleanor stated she needs additional Outreach personnel to help reach all chapters, checking to see if they need help, encouraging Directors to attend, and mentoring struggling chapters. She and her committee need help with Lubbock, also Aransas/San Patricio, and Cameron/Brownsville Counties. Eleanor stated Outreach should be there for all groups not just for chapters in TMGA.

F. Special Tax Advisory-Wayne Rhoden, Williamson County

Wayne stated he has to validate fifty-two counties and 43 associations. The 99N e-postcard needs to be sent by the chapter Treasurers by May 15th and using their own counties IN form. The tax-exempt status has saved an estimated \$39,000 for the TMGA and the chapters under its umbrella. Check the 501(c)3 website to see if your chapter is registered.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Future Meetings-Brenda Cunningham, Dallas County

The President asked if Directors present would be interested in meeting in other locations in the state. There were only a few hands raised in favor of moving. She stated we need to poll those not present. It was pointed out in discussion that the camaraderie of the Directors group would be lost if we did long distance teleconferencing. It was pointed out by the President that this conferencing would only be used by Counties where Directors must come extremely long distances. It was also mentioned that the Marriott Home Suites have special rates for TMGA attendees. The meetings for the rest of the year are as follows:

1. Friday, May 4, 2012, 3:45-4:45pm, 2012 Conference Site
2. Saturday, August 4, 2012, 11:00am-3:00pm
3. Saturday, December 1, 2012, 11:00am-3:00pm

B. Proposed By-Laws Amendment-Brenda Cunningham, Dallas County

The President, with the board's approval, officially presented a proposal to eliminate Article XI, on indemnification for officers as it was cost prohibitive. (A director stated a lawyer previously had stated we were a non-profit corporation so TMGA could not be sued for anything but insurance. Individuals should be protected by their home-owners insurance.) In addition to the elimination of Article XI, remaining articles would be renumbered. This amendment would be voted on by the Directors at the May meeting, following the required 60 day waiting period. Discussion arose to the legality of that vote.

STATE MG COORDINATOR UPDATE- Jayla Fry

Jayla Fry welcomed the group to A&M. She said she needed to clarify the use of monies from the Cost Recovery Program. Jayla stated the money from the Cost Recovery has been used to keep at least 50 County Extension agents of the 65 proposed cuts from losing their jobs.

Dismissed meeting at 2:25

Respectfully submitted by Karen Colwick, Secretary