

**Texas Master Gardeners Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
May 3, 2012  
San Antonio, Texas**

**Officers present:** Ginger Bason, Homer Babbitt, Karen Colwick, Dick Coupe, Brenda Cunningham, and Donna Hagar.

**Directors and Alternates:** The following chapters and counties were present:

Angelina, Aransas/San Patricio, Austin/Colorado (Bluebonnet), Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Burnet, Cameron, Collin, Comal, Dallas, Denton, Ector/Midland (Permian Basin), Ellis, Fannin, Fort Bend, Galveston, Grimes, Guadalupe, Harris, Henderson, Hood, Hood, Howard, Jefferson, Kerr, Leon, Lubbock, McCulloch, McLennan, Milam, Montague, Montgomery, Nueces, Parker, Somervell, Tarrant, Taylor, Travis, Victoria, Walker, Wichita, Williamson, and Wood Counties.

**Officers and Committee Members:** from Bell, Brazos, Comal, Dallas, McLennan, Somervell, Tarrant, and Victoria Counties were present.

**Guests:** Attending from the following counties: Aransas/San Patricio, Bell, Bexar, Brazos, Cameron, Comal, Ector/Midland, Galveston, Grimes, Henderson, Jefferson, Johnson, Kerr, Lubbock, Montgomery, Smith, Tarrant, and Victoria.

1. Meeting called to order by President Brenda Cunningham, Dallas County  
She welcomed the Directors, officers, and guests to the meeting. She checked to see if each Director and/or Alternate had a ballot and ticket.
2. The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was led by George Ammermann, Guadalupe County.
3. Review and Approval of the Minutes – Brenda Cunningham  
The Minutes of February 18, 2012 had been posted on line and were reviewed and approved.
4. Treasurer's Report – Donna Hagar, Somervell County  
Donna stated the treasurer's report had been posted on the website. The majority of income was from dues in the amount of \$12,640. Expenses totaled \$3,386.08.

**5. STANDING COMMITTEES**

- A. 2012 TMGA Conference Committee-Lou Kellogg and Lisa Nixon, Bexar County  
The President recognized the San Antonio members and their committees for an outstanding job on getting the conference off to a good start.
- B. Awards Committee –Mary and Paul Meredith, Victoria County  
The Awards committee stated that things were going smoothly. There were 12 judges rather than 9, and judging had already begun on the posters. The judges had been very impressed by the work they had seen. The judges' comments will be available to chapters participating by the end of the Conference. Mary stated that

having many entries in early allowed the committee to catch problems and entrants were able to fix these. Therefore, there were no disqualifications.

C. Conference Planning for 2014- Duddly Hargrove, Dallas County

The committee will be meeting to seek locations and chapters to host the 2014 Conference. The members of the committee have valuable knowledge and information to assist in putting on a Conference as they have all been involved in hosting one.

D. Newsletter – Donna Hagar, Somervell County

Donna Hagar, who has been editing the Newsletter for the past four years, has found an intern who has agreed to take over the newsletter. Donna will be helping Nicky Maddams, Grimes County, transition into the job when she is certified.

E. Nominating – Lonnie Mathew, Aransas/San Patricio County

Lonnie and her committee have found people to fill the needed vacancies for the year 2012-2013. If anyone is interested in helping on the state level, please let an officer or committee member know.

F. Outreach - Eleanor Tuck, Tarrant County

Eleanor thanked her committee, who worked diligently to locate people, and she thanked anyone to whom they spoke asking questions to help complete charter information for state records.

G. Special Tax Advisory – Wayne Rhoden, Williamson County

Wayne reminded every Director to check with their Treasurer to be sure they had filed their E-postcard which was due on May 15, 2012.

H. Website – Ron Williford, Comal County

Ron stated that the website has been updated by A& M earlier than planned and that it has a slightly different look but the content is the same. The 'Calendar' is now the 'Calendar of Events' on the right side of the website. One of the reasons for the change to Google docs is storage space.

## 6. New Business

A. Proposed By-Laws Amendment – Brenda Cunningham

1. Article XI – Indemnification (Current Wording)
2. Article XI – Indemnification (Proposed Change)

**Discussion:** There is a need to remove Article XI as it is cost prohibitive. It requires TMGA to provide insurance for all officers and members. Also the remaining By-laws will be renumbered and a check for typographical errors made. This By-law change was the result of the meeting in 2008 with Jerry Brown, A & M Legal Counsel, who advised that Master Gardeners are protected under the 'Texas Statutory Protection Immunity Act for Volunteers' and the 'Federal Volunteer Act'. Also most home-owners policies should cover any problems. Officers, both local and State may need additional coverage.

**Questions:** One member wanted to know if we were covered under the AgriLife Extension Service? We are not. Another Director wanted to know why it took from

2008 until the present to make this change? Brenda explained she wasn't sure, but it had become a priority. We had enough Directors/Alternates to make a quorum. The proposed changes required two-thirds of the Directors to agree on a By-laws change. The vote was taken by raising the pink ballot cards, and was passed unanimously.

**B. Future Meeting Dates**

1. Saturday, August 4, 2012, 11:00am- 3:00pm at College Station
2. Saturday, December 1, 2012, 11:00am - 3:00pm at College Station

**C. Conference 2013** – McAllen Master Gardeners

The 2013 Conference is in McAllen. A PowerPoint presentation was shown about various activities in McAllen and the surrounding area. The Conference committee is working to obtain great hotel rates, and a shuttle service will be provided from hotels within 3 miles of the Conference location. A list of confirmed speakers was shown as were additional sites to visit. Hidalgo and Cameron Counties have asked for \$5000.00 seed money for the Conference, and that request has been granted.

**7. State MG Coordinator Update** – Jayla Fry

Jayla welcomed everyone to San Antonio for the Conference. She was asked about background checks, which she explained are necessary for Master Gardeners' own protection, especially as many Master Gardeners work with children. These background checks need to be repeated every three years.

She was also asked about partial cost recovery and repeated her report from February that the money goes to help pay Extension Agents' salaries so that we only had to cut 15 jobs instead of 65 jobs.

**Thank You to Tarrant County** for donating tickets for use during the meeting. Door-prizes were given away with a solar whimsy light as the final prize. Prizes were provided by TMGA Secretary, Karen Colwick, Bell County. Congratulations to Virginia Krebs, Wichita County, who won the final prize.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:50pm.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Colwick  
May 20, 2012