

Official Minutes of the February 19, 2011 Meeting

BOARD OF DIRECTORS TEXAS MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

The following officers were present:

President, Homer Babbitt; 1st Vice President, Chris Oefinger; 2nd Vice President, Ginger Bason; Treasurer, Donna Hagar; Secretary, Diane Bush; Past President, Lonnie Matthew

Directors/Alternates from the following associations were present:

Angelina, Aransas/San Patricio, Bexar, Bluebonnet, Brazos, Brazoria, Collin, Comal, Dallas, Denton, Ector/Midland, Fort Bend, Galveston, Gonzales, Gregg, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hood, Jefferson, Johnson, Leon, McLennan, Montague, Parker, Rusk, Smith, Somervell, Tarrant, Taylor, Travis, Victoria, Walker, Wichita, Wood, and Williamson counties.

Guest from the following associations also attended:

Brazoria, Ector/Midland, Guadalupe, Harris, Hood, Johnson, Smith, Victoria Walker, Wichita, and Williamson counties

Call to Order:

President Homer Babbitt called the meeting to order at 11:10 AM after welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending. George J. Ammermann, Guadalupe County, then gave the invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review and Approval of December 4th, 2010 Meeting Minutes:

Copies of the unofficial minutes from the December 4th, 2010 meeting were available for review and were posted on the TMGA website. President Homer Babbitt asked if there were any corrections, questions or changes to the minutes. There being none, the minutes were approved. President Homer Babbitt informed the Secretary to provide an official copy of the minutes to the webmaster for posting to the TMGA website.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Donna Hagar presented the full year 2010 report showing a carried forward balance of \$23,497.77. Donna presented the 2011 YTD income/expense report with current bank balance of \$30,092.80 and asked for questions. There being none, President Babbitt stated that the report would be filed for audit. Donna then presented the proposed 2011 Budget. President Babbitt stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the budget be approved and asked for a motion to approve. Motion was made by Ann Brown, Hill County MG and seconded by JoAnne Hahn, Tarrant County. Motion carried with one dissenting vote.

Director Training Power Point Presentation – Ginger Bason:

President Homer Babbitt introduced Ginger Bason, 2nd Vice President and co-chair of the Outreach Committee. Ginger provided information of the responsibility of a Director and alternates.

Director's Responsibility:

- Association representatives elected by the local association to carry out state and county business: Two directors per association, one vote per director at TMGA meetings. (It is recommended that each association have two alternates who can represent the county in the absence of their designated directors).
- Give roster including names and email addresses of county officers and directors to TMGA secretary.
- Promote the awards program within your local association.
- Vote regarding TMGA business.
- Report TMGA business to the respective local association.
- Attend Director's meetings
- Let TMGA know of resources that your county association needs.
- Assist nominating committee with identifying officers.
- Assist President to identify committee chairs and members.
- Encourage your local association to contribute to the TMGA newsletter
- Contact TMGA president if you would like to present information pertinent to the state at a director's meeting.
- If there is ever a decision/policy that is made by TMGA that is unclear, it is the director's responsibility to inquire about the decision.
- Put information about what went on at the state meeting via your website or communicate in your newsletter other ways to let your counties know who we are and what we do.

Other items that Ginger discussed:

- 33 counties have paid dues, 62 have completed charters but still need the rest of the dues. Form is on the website
- In the past few years some counties did not pay their dues by March 1st. Your dues must be in the hands of the treasurer by March 1st otherwise you will not be qualified for any state awards. Please do not rely on a U.S. postmark because not all envelopes are postmarked.
- If you attend a Specialist Training class the state association will reimburse you \$50.00 if you complete the course and after obtaining your certificate.
- If you are not under the 501C3 umbrella contact Wayne Rhoden at
- The Outreach Committee is being setup and George Ammermann is responsible for that committee and will be in touch in the near future.
- If your local county is interested in hosting a TMGA conference, please get on the agenda in the future.
- Visitors are always welcome to attend our quarterly meetings, just let us know how many will be attending so we can order enough lunch.
- You should be honored to have the responsibility to be a director. It is an important job and we are proud that you are here.

Standing Committee Reports

2011 TMGA Conference: Donna Hagar and Doug Richards gave us an overview what to expect at the conference scheduled for April 27 – 29th. For a review of the classes and tours go to the Texas Master Gardener website for more information about this upcoming conference. There will be plenty of shopping and entertainment at the chuck wagon dinner and at the Awards Banquet and at the Junior Master Garden and Specialist Recognition Luncheon. There will be over 30 vendors and time for socializing with one another. Most of the classes are beginning to fill up so go on-line and get registered.

2010 Financial Report – Dick Coupe: Dick said that the audit committee has met to review the Financials for 2010 for the Texas Master Gardeners Association and that all records are up to date and in order.

Awards – Mary and Paul Meredith:

- They have received awards entries from 38 associations by the January 28, 2011 deadline. Nine associations notified the committee and the host county for the April conference they would enter 13 entries (five exhibits and 8 poster showcase entrants) in the Exhibits and Poster competition judged at the conference. Five associations made submissions but could not be accepted because of their dues were not on time, they have been disqualified according to Awards Handbook rules.
- Now in judging we have 121 qualifying award submissions, entered into one of nine categories, are in the process of being judged by out-of-state judges. Of those submissions, 39 are in the hard-copy submission categories, the rest are in electronic submissions. We have four entries in the new Website Education category.
- Nine judges recruited by Jayla Fry are all Master Gardner State Coordinators from the West, Northwest, Midwest, Southeast, and Northeast and Northwest territories. All judges have their materials and have access to an online scoring worksheets to record their evaluations
- Plaques and ribbons for the exhibits and Poster category will be ordered shortly. Certificates will be printed as soon as the judges finish their deliberations and results are determined.

Conference Planning: In Dudley Hargrove's absence President Homer Babbitt discussed this newly formed committee. This committee is designed to help out future Associations wanting to hold the state conference in their counties. Dudley Hargrove, Dallas County, agreed to chair this committee. There is a lot of financial risk involved in a state conference so previous experience from past state conferences would be extremely informative by sharing their knowledge. We have asked for volunteers who have held the state conference in the past to share their experience for future conference. This could be a wealth of information for counties who are thinking about a future TMGA state conference.

Newsletter – Donna Hagar: The newsletter roster is different from the officers and directors roster that Ginger referred to earlier. Please send Donna your roster preferably electronically and she can upload that so each individual will get the newsletter. Updates to rosters can be submitted to Donna as well. If you have information that you would like to put in the newsletter, please send to Donna by the 28th of each month.

Nominating Committee – Elaine Bell: Lonnie Matthew, Aransas/San Patricio, and Fran Amuny, Jefferson County are on this committee. If you have any idea that someone would be good on this committee or interested please pass it on to us or get in touch with President, Homer Babbitt. We will be at the conference and looking forward to hearing from interested parties because we need a slate by our August quarterly meeting.

Outreach Committee – George Ammerman: We are in the process of visiting all of the directors in the district where they belong across the state. Then, we are also grouping the districts into the four regions; north, south, east and west. You should be receiving information from someone that will represent your district and we will be working with these districts. The districts that do not have representation, we are asking if anyone is interested in volunteering to help with this committee, please contact George Ammerman or Ginger Bason

Special Tax Advisory – Wayne Rhoden

- The IRS changed some requirements last year. Your treasurer needs to file an IRS form 990 or 990N. The limit for filing the simpler 990N e-postcard has been raised for organizations whose annual fundraising are \$50K or less. These forms must be filed by May 15, 2011 by each individual organization. Please remember when filing the 990 form to use your local association EIN number and not the Texas Master Gardener Association EIN number. If you fail to file for three years they will take you off the 501C3 and you will no longer be tax exempt.
- Nursery Floral Certificates from the Texas Department of Agriculture. Those of you who sale plants will need to file for this certificate. This information is on the Texas Master Gardener Association website. TMGA recommend that you have this certificate.

Webmaster – Ron Williford: President Homer Babbitt introduced our new Webmaster and stating how happy we are that he has accepted this position. Ron gave us a brief history on accepting this position on December 4th, 2010. Ron spent over 200 hours organizing and cleaning up over a year's worth of non-existence of webmaster. Ron said that it is a good site, but there are things that we can and can't do. Ron asks that if you have any recommendations or suggestions to please let him know. Ron will oversee the site but he is asking volunteers who have knowledge with WordPress and are interested in helping to contact Ron at mastergardener.RW@gmail.com. The website address is <http://txmg.org> and password is sunset (lower case)

2012 TMGA Conference – Lou Kellogg, Bexar County – The 2012 TMGA Conference will be held in San Antonio, on May 3 -5 2012. The meeting will be held at the Norris Convention center on Junction I10. It will be at one location with free parking with the exception for the tours. They are in the process of finalizing their speakers and tours and will announce these at the 2011 state convention in Glen Rose.

- Lou announced that they will have an Irrigation Efficiency Specialist Training on March 28 – 30, 2011. Registration fee: \$200.00. Only 20 participants and deadline; March 21, 2011. Also they have a Compost Training sometime in June.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business - Cynthia Thornton, Bluebonnet Master Gardening Association:

They will hold a Vegetable Specialist Training Course, March 11 -12, 2011 in La Grange, Fayette County and the Course fee is \$180.00. If you have any questions regarding this Specialist Training course you can contact Cynthia at little.t@cvctx.com.

Rainwater Conference, Williamson County, June 9 – 10. Only 30 participants and Payment and registration must be in their office by May 20, 2011. Contact Sally Todd at sallybtodd@gmail.com.

State Master Gardener Coordinator – Jayla Fry: Jayla welcomed everyone and hoped that everyone learned something today and that there is always a place if you would like to attend again. She also thanked the county agents for attending.

Dick Coupe, Dallas County made motion to adjourn and Barbara Lutz, Bexar County, second the motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 2:32 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Bush
TMGA Secretary