

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TEXAS MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATIONS, INC.**

Official Minutes of the April 27, 2011 Meeting

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TEXAS MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATIONS, INC.**

The following officers were present:

President, Homer Babbitt; Executive Committee Member, Doug Richards; 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, Bell, Bennett, Bexar, Brazoria, Brazos, Burnett, Collin, Comal, Dallas, Denton, Ector/Midland, Ellis, El Paso, Fort Bend, Galveston, Gregg, Guadalupe, Hood, Hunt, Jefferson, Johnson, Lamar, Leon, McCulloch, McLennan, Montague, Nacogdoches, Parker, Rusk, Smith, Somervell, Tarrant, Taylor, Tom Green,, Travis, Victoria, Walker, Wichita, Williamson, Wood counties.

Guest from the following associations also attended:

Aransas/San Patricio, Bell, Brazos, Bexar, Brazoria, Collin, Denton, Ector/Midland, El Paso, Fannin, Galveston, Gregg, Guadalupe, Hamilton, Harris, Hood, Hunt, Aransas/San Patricio, Leon, Lubbock, Jefferson, Johnson, McLennan, Nacogdoches, Rusk, Smith, Tarrant, Tom Green, Travis, Victoria, Walker, Wichita, and Williamson, Wood counties

Call to Order:

President Homer Babbitt called the meeting to order at 3:08 PM after welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending. Ginger Bason gave the invocation and President Homer Babbitt led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review and Approval of February 19th, 2011 Meeting Minutes:

Copies of the unofficial minutes from the February 19th, 2011 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, Barbara Lutz made motion to approve the minutes and Doug Richards; seconded the motion. The minutes were approved. President Homer Babbitt informed the Secretary to change minutes from unofficial to official and provide copy of the minutes to the webmaster for posting to the TMGA website.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Donna Hagar reported that she has received \$12,136.00 in dues and it is the most that we have ever collected and our ending balance is \$32,719.50. Donna said that the Treasurer's report is on the TMGA website if you would like to review and if you have any questions to please contact Donna. Dick Coupe, Dallas County made motion to approve the treasurer's report and Dorothy Babbitt, Parker County seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Standing Committee Reports:**Awards Committee – Mary and Paul Meredith:**

Mary and Paul said that they received 139 awards submissions from 33 counties and the winners will be announced the following evening.

Newsletter - Donna Hagar:

Donna said to please continue to send your rosters on-line to receive the newsletters directly to you. Your email addresses are not shared with anyone outside of TMGA. President Homer Babbitt encouraged all to subscribe because it is a great way to stay informed and encouraged Director's to share this information among their fellow Master Gardeners.

Nominating Committee – Elaine Bell:

Elaine asked all how we may serve in some way to move our organization forward. We need new blood and new people to get involved in management and the operation at the state level in some capacity.

2012 TMGA Conference – Lou Kellogg and Barbara Lutz, Bexar County:

The 2012 TMGA Conference will be held in San Antonio, May 3-5, at the Norris Convention Center, located at IH10 & 410. Lou Kellogg and Barbara Lutz gave an overview of sites and tours in San Antonio. Several mentioned are the Pearl Farmers Market; and a river barge or walking tour with the San Antonio River Authority. , the Color Spot Nursery – the largest wholesale container nursery in Texas; Water Garden Gems – the largest full service water garden center in the South Central United States, Fanick's Garden Center - San Antonio's oldest retail nursery; Antique Rose Emporium – featuring display gardens and a large variety of found and antique rose and Gardenville – founded by Malcolm Beck, known as the father of Texas organic gardening. This is just a few tours of what this conference has to offer.

Outreach Committee – George Ammermann:

We have 78 county associations that are in good standing (meaning they are up to date on their dues; has sent in their rosters and also have completed their charter documentation). We have 11 counties that have not either paid their dues, or completed rosters or completed their charter documentation. Someone from the Outreach Committee will be contacting you and work with these counties to get them updated.

New Business:

Specialist Training:

President Homer Babbitt said that the TMGA will partially reimburse you for a specialist training class in the amount of \$50.00. We have budgeted this to cover the expenses. This reimbursement is a one- time only per training session. The form for the reimbursement is on the TMGA website with a one year time limit.

Sam Cotner - President Homer Babbitt:

President Homer Babbitt mentioned that Sam Cotner (a vegetable specialist) passed away last January. Homer asked us to think about making a donation or contribute to a scholarship in his memory. No motions made today but will be revisited at the August meeting.

TMGA Website Roster:

President Homer Babbitt said that there has been a concern about people using the website to obtain email addresses for personal agendas. We need to clarify the use of the roster that it is for TMGA business only. Past President Lonnie Matthew made motion to add a disclaimer and Doug Richards seconded the motion. Motion carried.

1st Vice President Resignation:

President Homer Babbitt informed us that our 1st Vice President, Chris Oefinger, has resigned. Our By-laws are silent in replacing an officer. There is a provision in the By-laws only about replacing a vacancy on the Executive Committee. The provision is that the remaining Executive Committee members by majority vote will elect a Director that will fill that position. The Executive Committee elected Doug Richards for the remainder of 2011. Congratulations Doug.

Partial Cost Recovery – Dr. Ed Smith:

President Homer Babbitt introduced Dr. Ed Smith, Director of Extension and Mr. Kyle Smith, Executive Associate Director to discuss Partial Cost Recovery. Dr. Ed Smith said that we are 73% funded from appropriations from the Federal, State and Local government and 7% comes from grants and user fees. The state is running a deficit with lots of uncertainty and the federal government is running a larger deficit. We have 10% operations and 90% people and we cannot go below 10%. We have decided rather than to downsize, we have implemented the Partial Cost Recovery. This is not just for the Master Gardeners but for the entire extension system. With all of our resources we spend \$150M plus a year in our educational systems. We have six thousand that are Master Gardener volunteers with a workforce and one thousand professionals spread out over 254 counties and we cannot deliver the education programs without volunteers.

Dr. Ed Smith said that we are facing a \$10M annual budget shortfall. With the budget shortfall we have decided to explore instead of downsize. It is an economic cycle; instead of downsizing the agents we would explore the Partial Cost Recovery. If the Partial Cost Recovery is successful we could recover \$4.3 million. Asking all specialist

or agents to look at charging \$10.00 or 10% whichever is higher for educational events. If we don't see an improvement in our budget we will have to lay off or impact 146 positions and 7.3% of our agency will have to be cut. We have sixty agents that would have to go if everything falls through. We will not announce these agents and they are not identified until the August 31 timeframe, unless we can make the \$4.3M target. Dr. Ed Smith asked us to use your massive capability, turn your creativeness and innovativeness to meet these targets, and asking all other master programs to do so as well.

Dr. Doug Welsh said that the Partial Cost Recovery was rolled out very quickly and apologized for the lack of communication and he took full responsibility for this error. Dr. Welsh said they had to implement it quickly because we had to react to the deficit and we still have a lot of work to do to recover.

Jayla Fry thanked Dr. Ed Smith for speaking to us.

Meeting adjourned at 4:38 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Bush
TMGA Secretary