

Unofficial Minutes of the February 6, 2016 Meeting

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TEXAS MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION, INC.

Texas A & M Campus, College Station, Texas

Secretary, Pat Allen

Officers present were the following:

President Mary Means, 1st Vice-President Peggy Rogers, 2nd Vice-President Nicky Maddams, Secretary Pat Allen, Past President Donna Hagar and State Master Gardener Coordinator Jayla Fry.

Officers and Directors/Alternates from the following county associations were present:

Aransas/San Patricio, Austin/Colorado/Fayette/Washington, Bastrop/Caldwell, Bell, Brazos, Collin, Comal, Dallas, Ector/Midland, Fannin, Fort Bend, Galveston, Gregg, Grimes, Guadalupe, Harris, Hays, Henderson, Hill, Hood, Jefferson, Johnson, Kerr/Kendall/Gillespie/Bandera, Leon, Liberty, McLennan, Milam, Montgomery, Nueces, Parker, San Jacinto, Smith, Somervell, Tarrant, Travis, Victoria, Waller, Williamson, and Wood. Also in attendance were visiting Master Gardeners from the following counties: Bell, Denton, Grimes, Hood, Leon, McLennan and Victoria.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:

The invocation and pledge were led by Wayne Rhoden of Williamson County.

Call to Order:

President Mary Means called meeting to order at 12:30pm with a warm welcome and roll call of the attending counties. Attending were 65 directors, alternates and eight visitors.

Mary administered the Oath of Affirmation of Commitment to the Texas Master Gardener Association's 2016 Board of Directors.

Mary asked members to take note of the meeting dates for the remainder of the year: Tuesday, May 17, 2016 from 10:00am-11:00am in McKinney, Texas during state conference; Saturday, August 13, 2016, College Station, Texas and Saturday, December 3, 2016, College Station, Texas.

Approval of Minutes:

President Mary Means asked new secretary, Pat Allen, to present December meeting minutes as posted on the TMGA website and emailed to the membership by Nicky Maddams. There were no corrections or additions to the minutes, therefore, minutes were approved as posted.

Auditor's Report:

Jane Bowman, Williamson County, spoke on behalf of the Auditing Committee which met on December 5, 2015 with Treasurer Dale Powell. It was reported that there were no irregularities and that all transactions were correct for the reporting period of January to December of 2015.

Treasurer's Report:

Mary Means reported for Treasurer Dale Powell an ending balance of \$41,825.60 as of January 31, 2016.

2016 Proposed Budget

The 2016 Proposed Budget was presented by Mary Means. A motion was made by Tony Lucente, Jefferson County, and seconded by Jim Ewoldsen, Collin County, to accept the 2016 Budget as presented. Membership unanimously approved.

The Gardens at A&M University:

Committee members Donna Hagar and Garey Wylie reported that we have completed our pledge, however, donations are still coming in as we begin the second of our three-year campaign to raise funds

for The Gardens at A&M project. Collin County added an additional \$1270.00. Fort Bend County added a \$100.00 memorial for Doug Welsh's son. Grimes County gave an additional \$500.00. Montgomery County sent in their second installment of their pledge and Galveston County sent in a personal individual donation of \$1000.00. Concho Valley sent in \$1053.00. At this time our total is \$129,363.00 raised for the project.

Standing Committees:

2016 Conference Update:

Jim Ewoldsen, Collin County, gave an update on conference plans stating that more registrants are needed ASAP. Fees now are at \$200.00 but will go to \$225.00 at the end of February. Included in the registration fee are the Tuesday night's reception, three boxed lunches, Wednesday night's Awards Banquet, all speakers and all but one workshop. The conference is also open to non-Master Gardeners. Nine continuing education units (CEU's) will be available to attendees. We were reminded to be prepared for weather conditions and to dress for the outside conditions of the venue. Jim encouraged members to check information on speakers, tours and workshops on the conference website and Facebook.

Southern Regional Conference:

Ginger Bason, Tarrant County, spoke about the Southern Region Master Gardener conference (comprised of thirteen southern states) that will occur in Arlington November 1-5, 2016. The host/convention hotel is the Sheraton. Registration will open in mid-March and more information will follow on state website. This conference will be bigger than our state conferences at a cost of \$210.00 if paid by May 15, 2016 and will provide an opportunity to get 20 hours of educational credit.

2017 Cruise Conference:

Nicky Maddams gave an update on cruise conference plans slated for April 27-May 1, 2017. Helping with planning is Stacey Jarmon, a Master Gardener from Denton County who works for HelmsBriscoe. The four-night cruise will be departing from Galveston on Carnival Cruise Line's ship, the *Liberty*[™] and will sail to Cozumel and back to Galveston. Included in price will be conference registration fee, all food (including room service), six classes for education credit, reception, entertainment and the documentary screening of "Symphony of the Soil". Some 63 excursions will be offered in Cozumel for additional fees. Prices based on double occupancy, begin at \$551.25 for an inside cabin, \$612.25 for an ocean view and \$732.25 for a cabin with a balcony (check prices on website for desired type of cabin as these are approximate prices). Traveling solo will be double in price. No passport is needed but highly recommended in case of health emergencies. To get these great prices we will need to get in a deposits which can be sent in the following increments of \$100 by July 10, 2016, \$250 by October 10, 2016 and \$50 by December 10, 2016 (subject to change). Remaining amount due before cruise date. Check website for more information. Early registration by the July 10th date will get three people a chance at a \$50 gift card, two people a chance at a free excursion, and one person has a chance to get the cruise free! All details are online through website and Facebook. Information will also be in the state newsletter.

Galveston County will possibly be hosting the Awards Ceremony with a brunch and perhaps offering tours and other fun things after departing from the cruise.

Gary Slanga, Bell County, requested that the PowerPoint presentation of the cruise details be made to each county. Jayla said that she could get that out to each of the counties possibly online.

Following cruise presentation, names were drawn for plants that were provided by Stacey Jarmon of HelmsBriscoe.

2018 Conference:

Nicky Maddams announced that the 2018 Conference will be held in College Station in connection with the opening of the gardens. More information will be available closer to that date.

Break-out Sessions:

Jayla Fry explained the purpose of the 25-minute break-out session (volunteer for committees) having each Committee chairman highlight what their committee does (see the following committees). Each committee visited would gain another door prize ticket, thus increasing their odds of winning a door prize.

Awards Committee: Peggy Rogers, Wood County

This committee has received 126 submissions which need to be reviewed and considered for awards. Awards need to be ready for presentation at the banquet.

Communications Committee: Nicky Maddams, Waller County

Nicky needs writers to submit articles to the state newsletter. She has a need for bloggers. Anyone with website building skills will be a big help. She also encouraged everyone to either sign up individually to receive the state newsletter or to have each county send in complete roster of members so that everyone will stay informed about current state events.

Conference Planning Committee: Barbara Porch, Permian Basin

This committee helps counties with their conference planning. Barbara requested that Gary Slanga, Bell County, and Jim Ewoldsen, Collin County, help with this committee as they were/are the 2015 and 2016 Conference Chairmen.

Hospitality Committee: Ginger Bason, Tarrant County

Help is needed to set up hospitality tables and arrange refreshments starting around 11:15am. No food purchasing involved, as Jayla takes care of that. You will also be greeting arriving members.

Nominating Committee: Donna Hagar, Somerville County

Help is needed in filling slate of officers for next year's Executive Committee; a treasurer will be required as that position will be vacated at end of 2015.

Outreach Committee: Eleanor Tuck, Tarrant County

Assistance is needed in making information available to counties in each district, recognizing long-term members, and making sure that rosters and dues are sent in on time. Committee also helps provide support to county who needs help with difficult situations.

Tax Advisory Committee: Wayne Rhoden, Williamson County

This committee advises counties on tax exemptions and tax exempt status, deals with emails, and phone calls and makes sure that the 990N has been filed on time for each county. Each county must be using their own EIN # and not the state's number.

Unfinished Business:

No unfinished business reported.

New Business:

Ginger Bason, Tarrant County, proposed that we make a donation to the Gardens and Greenway project in memory of Dr. Welsh's son. Garey Wylie, Williamson County, seconded. Marti Luedtke, Grimes County, motioned to make the proposed donation from the TMGA in an appropriate amount to be decided by Treasurer at later date. Kathy Murray, Hood County seconded. The motion carried.

State Master Gardener Coordinator Update:

Jayla Fry reported that the Online Master Gardener training is working in the seven pilot counties and that she is heavily involved in the upcoming conferences.

Door Prizes:

Tickets were drawn for "Sprouting Broccoli" plants grown and donated by Mary Means.

President Mary Means thanked everyone for coming. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. No motion was conducted.

Respectfully submitted by,
Pat Allen, TMGA Secretary

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