

Yamhill County Master Gardeners Association

Executive Board Minutes September 14, 16.1

Meeting was called to order by Pat Fritz at 10:07 a.m. on September 14, 2016.

In attendance: (Bold = Board)

Carol Parks
Linda Coakley
Rita Canales

Tom Canales
Polly Blum
Apryl Garmon

Pat Fritz
Donn Callaham
Sylvia Connor

Tonia Beebe
Gail Price
Anna Ashby

Linda Mason
Nancy Woodworth
Jade Wilson

First Item was changes in secretary's minutes from July. 1) The insurance issue had not been resolved, contrary to what the secretary understood. 2) There was a motion to accept Nancy Woodworth and Rita Canales' volunteering to be co-vice-presidents, and they were accepted eagerly.

Treasurer's report: Carol Parks has emailed all six financial reports for July and August and Secretary possesses a hard copy of each report.

President-elects' Report: Neither Nancy nor Rita had a thing to say.

OSU staff report: Jade was the representative this morning, and she had lots to say. She passed out copies of OSU recertification policies to all members, and a bulletin on the impending threat of Japanese beetles. There have been changes in these requirements, but our current policies are in effect through 10/31/16. She asked all mentors to personally check with their given mentees to be sure the mentees were meeting graduation requirements. New requirements (for 2017) will be 20 volunteer and 10 education hours, with any YCMGA activity counting. Now there will be "direct" education hours (teaching, running a clinic, writing) and "indirect" education hours, consisting of time spent helping set up for an educational activity, all of which will begin November first, 2016. We also found out that Jade has the horrifying task of daily checking the submitted hours of every single Master Gardener, and verifying correct submission. Jade also mentioned that the McMinnville Farmers' Market is in strong need of staffing until October 6, which is when the market closes for the year. At the clinic desk a trainee often is the only staff on duty, and many of these people do not feel competent doing the job alone. As you would suspect, experienced staff are needed to assist. The vertebra of a mammoth was mentioned as being pretty unusual for clinics. Jade also informed us that there are 17 prospective clients for the 2017 class—people who have contacted her to sign up. People suggested a number of ways to further publicize the classes: ads in the *News-Register*; fliers to hang at local businesses; radio ads; a display board in front of the Extension Office. Nearly all instructors have been locked in to teaching the 2017 classes, which will begin January 5th 2017. We were all quite impressed with Jade's rapid learning curve and surprisingly complete grasp of everything going on here, after a relatively short time.

Announcements: The President officially recognized Grow Alley for the "Search for Excellence" award, Gene Nesbitt for "Yamhill County Master Gardener of the Year," and Lynn Pollock as "Yamhill County Behind the Scenes." The following people received their 20-year recognition: Gail Price, Keith Wingfield, Barbara Boyer, Catie Anderson, Bob Grossmann, and Barbara Grossmann.

Propagation: Linda reported that the 4" pot plants are being transplanted into gallons, and 4" pots being readied for new transplants.

Demonstration Garden (fairgrounds): Gail is hosting a "Tear-it-Out" party on September 27th, to remove all annuals and cut down perennials. Needed are someone with a pickup and a person with a permit allowing them to dump at the Western Greenlands site. However, Polly emphasized (with obvious glee) that whenever the "open" sign is not up at the dump site anyone can go there and dump anything organic they please, and nobody will be watching. She seemed to prefer this technique over using the permit.

Tours: Those who went on the mushroom farm tour last week were all very enthusiastic about the tour, and detailed the progress of the mushroom-growing kits they had received. Many of us already have mushrooms ready or almost ready to harvest from the growing kits. However, no other field trips are planned right now.

Education/Outreach: Pat reported that the social events would begin in 27 hours, and they did! Participants receive ½ hour educational credit, and one cookie (maybe 2 if you're quick) for being social. On October 18th there will be a lecture on greenhouse winterization, and on the 20th the Oregon Flora Project will be introduced. November is a board meeting, then "retreat" for the rest of the day to plan the 2017 budget, and in December will be graduation and potluck. Most "social hours" are from 3 to 4 p.m. We are also hoping for a one-hour tour of Linfield with Heather, who will identify plants for us there.

Community Garden: After thanking Polly for all her work on the potluck, Linda told us that to date this year the Community Garden has donated 7,175 pounds of produce to YCAP! Winter gardening is now beginning: the new gardening year will begin in March 2017. There are now 22 *new* raised beds; plans are to have everything in raised beds next year, as the in-ground plantings have been plagued by weeds. Plants will be started in the large greenhouse, which Bailey Nurseries is going to reskin (donating both materials and the labor for the project).

McMinnville Farmers' Market: Though there is often a need for more help, Tom said that people respond well to the emergency emails sent out. Jade will solve the eternal problem of mixed supply bins by simply hiding the one not used. Handouts will be limited to general monthly material (rather than specific subject bulletins). Jade will find out about procuring a tablet to be used at the booth. The Preservers show up in an erratic manner, probably because they have only 3 members in Yamhill County! Next year preserving classes will be held in McMinnville, and other counties will help at the booth. The Preservers should be more predictable then.

Newberg Farmers' Market: This market is near death. Many vendors have stopped coming, customers are rare, and there are from zero to 3 contacts at the MG booth during the *whole day*. People questioned if 4 MG's should spend a day there waiting, but no decision was made. Apparently most of the "customers" there are just visiting or walking their dogs.

OMGA Representative report: Apryl was pleased to inform us that in the new budget grants for chapters have not been deleted, and that a selling booth (t-shirts??) at the international MGA convention (in Portland) could be quite profitable. YCMGA will, for next year, need to rewrite our bylaws to match those of OMGA. Re: the liability issue, Sylvia informed us that the OMGA board is still not taking any action, ostensibly waiting for discussions to be put into writing by a lawyer. They may act by the end of this year, but it has been half of year of indecision. YCMGA needs the board action and paperwork to take to the Yamhill County Fair Board for approval. The county fair board also wants to review the "Memorandum of Understanding" between the MG board and the fair board. No matter what the venue, the lack of liability insurance probably would prevent our using *any* public facility until the insurance issue is resolved. At this point everything depends on the OMGA executive board. Tom strongly recommended that the reps. become more aggressive in pushing the board to do something about the insurance: Linda said that she was told to back off when she tried that. However, Apryl agreed to talk with Marcia and Sue Nesbitt (the Yamhill County representatives on the OMGA executive board) to see if they can encourage the Board to move more quickly. Pat the President will write a letter, signed by all the board members, pushing the OMGA board to get this done. And soon. Updates on the international convention are on the website, "2017IMGA," to which Tom will install a link on the YCMGA website.

Web Report: Tom is always looking for more material to put on the website, and he would enjoy a backup person.

"Spring into Gardening" Report: The theme will be "Gardening for Health," for which the speaker committee has already found and confirmed speakers for all the classes. Some subjects will be gardening tools; therapeutic gardens (at hospitals); gardening with pain (before you got the pain *from* gardening).

Seeds to Supper: Willamina, Newberg, and McMinnville will all be participating in the program this year. McMinnville needs a location and childcare, but oddly enough the major problem now is finding families to participate. Bilingual teachers are needed everywhere except in McMinnville, where it will be English only. No money is needed from MG's: we are responsible only for teaching.

Mentoring Committee: No members were present, but we do need to set the group up soon. Pat will decide on a chair for the committee.

Newberg High School: Presently YCMGA used the Newberg High greenhouse to raise about \$4,000 worth of plants for the YCMGA plant sale. However, the request has been made for a regular weekly MG teaching presence at the high school: if we don't meet this qualification the Master Gardeners will lose the use of the greenhouse. There are now 3 volunteers at the greenhouse, none of whom is able to also commit to regularly mentoring a class at the high school.

Plant Sale Committee: One more person is still needed as an apprentice to learn the intricacies of the plant sale. Alan is no longer doing the label printing, so of course a replacement is needed. While Tom appeared dazed about the request, Rita swept in and volunteered to be the Printer of the Labels. Agitated about a mini-college presentation he had attended, Tom toured the room showing a photo of the offending slide, until he was gently asked to settle down so the meeting could resume. He did, and it did.

Fall Retreat Plans: A full day of planning for next year will take place on Saturday, November 12th of this year. This is known as a "retreat," though the retreat destination is the same Public Works Auditorium we always use. After the board meeting the 2017 budget will be planned, allocating funds for existing committees and events, and possibly for proposed events and projects. (There won't be a regular board meeting in November). But there will be food at the retreat, with Polly in charge of the kitchen. (At the same time Polly volunteered to woman the kitchen during the plant sale as well). She'll need cleanup help for sure. This is the time for people to fill out a project form to submit that Saturday. The form does need to be approved by the chair of the involved committee, and a copy of the form and explanation of it will be on our website, and in the *Grapevine*. If no budget proposals are submitted for any committee, that committee will receive the same dollars as it did in 2016.

Nomination Committee Appointment: On that committee (which is responsible for begging people to run for office) are Nancy, Polly, and Rita. Polly is known for her sweet persuasiveness, and Nancy and Rita will take it from there. Members of the board and of committees can certainly elect to remain in their 2016 positions for 2017, but there still is supposed to be at least 2 people vying for each board position. A list of candidates will be presented at the retreat, or emailed before voting. Voting and the results of voting will both be at graduation.

Committee Chairpeople: Again, Nancy and Rita volunteered, this time to co-chair the Education Committee, and Gene needs a co-chair for "Spring into Gardening." Lynn Pollack may be chairing the mentoring committee: Tonia, Sue, and Lynn will be on the committee members.

Graduation: Graduation will be December 14th at the Heritage Center on Highway 18, south of town. It is a modern facility with everything we need, and at a surprisingly reasonable price. 5:00 p.m. will be the board meeting on that day, followed by pot luck dinner at 6:00 and the graduation ceremony at 7:00.

Termination: Tom suggested ending the meeting, Rita rapidly seconded the motion, and it happened at 11:53 a.m.