

Yamhill County Master Gardeners Association
Executive Board Minutes for March 08, 2017

Meeting called to order by Pat Fritz at 10:00 a.m. on above date.

Board members in **BOLD**

Carol Parks

Polly Blum

Nancy Woodworth

Rita Canales

Tom Canales

Donn Callaham

Lynn Pollock

Gene Nesbitt

Pat Fritz

Linda Mason

Ruth Rogers

Sue Nesbitt

Cathy Burdett

Becky Karver

Tonia Beebe

Apryl Garmon

Candace Van Zanten

Linda Coakley

After completion of meeting re: articles of incorporation, the meeting began with Secretary's notes. The notes from December and January had been updated last month, and the notes for February were approved. Secretary also passed around 3 clipboards for people to volunteer for "Spring into Gardening," enlist more members for the Hospitality Committee (as Polly was alone there), and to sign up for the office class for veterans. Nancy Woodworth and Cathy Burdett signed up to be on the Hospitality committee. Help was also requested for setup and takedown at SIG, plus door monitors and some ambassadors to the speakers.

Treasurer's Report: Carol Parks has emailed the finished reports, which are now in the Secretary's notebook. YCMGA now has \$25,883 in the bank. Carol recommended that YCMGA have an inventory list, there was unanimous agreement, and a minimum value of \$100 per item was established. (Collections of items which total \$100 or more will not be inventoried—only individual items). The Secretary (me!) will make a report of the inventory. Everyone who is responsible for an inventory item is asked to email him with their list.

President-elects' Report: Both members have been busy with various committees, particularly SIG and the plant sale.

Announcements: Master Gardeners were invited to be on the "Fair Ambassadors" selection committee, and Polly volunteered to fill one of the positions. Doris used to be on it, and may be this year (to be determined). Pat will give the this information to the Fair Board.

Education/Outreach Committee: Nancy listed upcoming activities: April 12 will be Steve the Naturalist from Jackson Bottom Wetlands (discussing the flora and fauna of the reserve); May will be an independent event (no lunch or social time) with Brian Stewart of Newberg (on the xeriscaping on 99W in Newberg, 10:00 am). Gene said that since Master Gardeners and Chehalem Parks and Rec. have similar missions to educate the public, Parks & Rec. would like to partner with us on some events. They would be doing publicity for both organizations. Another event will be at Edwards Elementary in Newberg, which would like MG's to be at their school festival, helping kids plant seeds in pots. Everyone agreed that we need an active tour coordinator, as we do not have one now. Polly and Pat eagerly volunteered.

Community Garden: Linda Mason reported that the gardeners have grown 700 tomato plants (each in a gallon pot) to sell at the Master Gardener plant sale. There are now 36 registered gardeners, with a waiting list for more beds. Some people rent more than 1 bed, and some are being saved for YCAP food. At 10 a.m. on March 18th there will be a garden orientation, and around March 23rd a trenching contractor is set to begin work for irrigation lines. On June 23rd, there will be a "Family Planting Day" geared to kids. Saturdays are usually workdays at the garden, plus Wednesday afternoons until it is too hot to work during that time.

OMGA Reps.: Apryl was one of the board members who attended the Leadership Conference several weeks ago. There are now only 200 spots left for sign-up at the International Master Gardener Conference in Portland. It is recommended that interested members sign up stat. The Crown Plaza is the only hotel left with rooms for attendees; May will be the cut-off point for class changes for attendees. A discussion of the concept of Mini-college resulted in strong agreement that is a productive event and should be continued (which was up for discussion). Mentoring programs were discussed, and apparently various chapters engage in mentoring from 0% to 100%. Yamhill County has one of the most complete and active programs. There is now a database which lists all Master Gardener club officers in Oregon, with phone numbers and email addresses. People wanting to obtain contact information need to contact our OMGA reps., who will relay the info. to you. As far as chapter-sponsored events go, we do a great deal. Some activities we do not yet do are working with prison inmates, having a "Junior Master Gardener" program, and having someone write articles for a local newspaper.

Web/Publicity: Tom will teach clinic-related computer literacy on May 15th and 16th for both trainees and veterans. This class will count as clinic time. Tom encouraged people to use the Google calendar for both MG and personal business. All event sign-ups will be electronic, and

tours will now also be listed. There is still a need for an *experienced* backup computer person, in case Tom is incapacitated or burns out. Hiring someone to do this job is prohibitively expensive for us: both a large initial charge, plus monthly fees for the rest of all time.

Spring into Gardening: The pressure is on now, but everything is under control. 129 people have signed up so far, plus sponsor representatives. About 25 walk-ins are expected, if numbers are similar to last year.

Seed-to-Supper: Four classes are scheduled to begin on April 8th. Recruitment materials have been distributed, and this year there is lots of community collaboration, which helps the program and is good PR. The Department of Juvenile Corrections would like to have a class for 14-to-18-year-old at-risk kids, and Spanish-speaking instructors are still needed. To be an instructor you do not have to be a Master Gardener, but it would be nice if you became one in the process, and that is *strongly* encouraged. Think of the hours one could earn!

Mentoring: Unfortunately Lynn Pollock is planning to move to Washington, but Marilyn McGregor has volunteered to permanently take her place on the Mentoring Committee. The potluck will still be on March 16th, and March 23rd will be the last class, at which Mentors and trainees will discuss and assess the classes.

Plant Sale Committee: Because of the unusually cold weather the plants in the greenhouse are much smaller than usual, but they will be ready for the sale. The Committee has stickers now, will apply new stickers (dates) on the plant sale signs, and is good to go with fairground management.

Greenhouse Committee: (Note issue above). The only plants with which there are problems now are the peppers. They have been planted 3 times, failing for an unknown reason each time but the last. Either they don't come up, or have die-off at the tips. It remains to be seen whether or not they become salable plants on time.

IMG Convention: (See notes under "OMGA Reps.")

Camellia Festival: Sue reminded us it is on April 8th, which unfortunately the same date as FarmFest.

Scholarships: Some pleasant news: one of the recipients was a state FFA vice-president last year (and will now use the scholarship when she restarts school this fall). Another is at BYU Idaho, and has resumed school full-time. And it turns out that the woman in charge of scholarships at Williams College in Massachusetts used to be a Master Gardener in Linn County, Oregon!

Other Business: A letter was sent to the OMGA treasurer asking her to delete our now-inoperative tax i.d. number, while we apply to the IRS for a new one. We locals fill out the IRS forms, which will be sent by OMGA. There are no real changes. Incidentally, YCMGA is the first Master Gardener chapter in Oregon to incorporate—such trend-setters! We may make a document detailing the steps to incorporating, and surely other chapters will want to emulate us.

Pat wanted to know if OMGA notified YCMGA when awards are due, but it is up to us to keep track. Not to worry: Cathy firmly declared that she is clearly and always on top of all that, and will make sure others are as well. May 15th is the deadline for awards, and Cathy will report on awards in April. We repeat: Cathy has it all under control!

Pat the President has jury duty coming up through April, which may give our two vice-presidents a chance to flex their potential power.

A Proposed Social Event: The subject came up that YCMGA members need to be socialized. Polly and Terry used to put on an ice-cream social annually, asking people to bring their ice-cream makers (which no one did) and a topping of their choice. We agreed that would be pleasant to reinstate: it will now be held at the fairgrounds sometime in July. Be warned: members won't learn anything from it, and therefore it does not count as earnable hours in any category. One cannot earn hours just for enjoying oneself.

Winding Up: When it appeared the meeting might be ending, Tom got up started wandering towards the snacks. After he was called back and reseated, Donn motioned for the meeting to end, Tom immediately seconded the motion, and Tom resumed his journey towards the cookies.

Donn Callaham, Secretary, March 08, 2017