

## YCMGA Board Meeting Minutes

April 10<sup>th</sup> 2019

**The President called the meeting to order  
at 10:02 am, on 4/10/19**

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Linda Mason	Sue Nesbitt	Donn Callahan
Polly Blum	Carol Parks	Rita Canales
Linda Coakley	Ruth Estrada	Heather Stoven
Tonia Beebe	Alan Wenner	Virginia Gault
Pat Fritz	Marilyn MacGregor	Susanne Beukema
Nancy Woodworth		

**Secretary's notes for March:** Susanne motioned approval, Nancy seconded, all voted in favor.

**Special Note:** Virginia Gault, a 2019 Master Gardener student, was introduced as the "class representative" for 2019. She was welcomed to the board, and quickly notified that she is not allowed to vote (for technical, not personal, reasons).

**Treasurer's Report:** SIG information has been mailed out: it was about \$250 over projected income. (The raffle netted \$1500 this year, compared to \$1000 last year). 180 people registered for SIG, though not all were paying customers. There have been 110 MG renewals (the most ever) but an issue with the IRS has resurfaced. Annually a letter is received by YCMGA from IRS demanding proof of nonprofit status. This year Carol sent the government folks a copy of a letter from 2001 as proof of our status. We hope to not hear from them next year. Re: the 4H Congress, Yamhill-Carlton High has a student who has applied to go. With intense coaching from Rita, Donn fumbled through a motion to donate \$250 to the Congress for use by a YC student. Tonia seconded the motion, Donn relaxed, and it was approved.

**Heather report:** Nearly all dates for desk clinic at the Extension Office have been filled through August. Some days have 7 or 8 people signed up, making for an impossible working environment on those days. People informally agreed that 4 is the maximum workable number, but nothing is being done to correct the problem. Master Gardeners (including students) are expected to call if they are not coming in, and to not come in if they haven't signed up. Still need some sign-ups for the Plant Sale clinic booth, for "shopping assistants, and for soil-testing.

**Education/Outreach Committee:** Many plant clinics are

planned: on May 15th at least 4 people are needed at Edwards Elementary in Newberg, to help kids plant seeds. Hours are 11am to 1pm. The Fuchsia Festival booth was described as a bust, with only 2 visitors to the booth. However, the FarmFest event was busy with kids planting seeds, and provided vigorous publicity for our Plant Sale. We really need a stand-alone sign for the booth, and should have one. It as yet has not been found. Heather and Jade will teach advanced desk classes in May, for all levels of MG's.

**McMinnville Community Garden:** Orientation was successful: 57 participants, 20 of whom are new to the garden. An intern from Western Oregon University is providing help, and trainees will begin volunteering in May. Human Resources of Yamhill County wants to become involved. Last year \$250 was received from OMGA but not spent. To get it now, Tonia motioned that it be transferred to the 2019 budget, Susanne seconded, all okayed the move.

**OMGA representatives:** An email request was sent by Nancy to all YCMGA committees, asking them to *please* apply for OMGA grants. (Deadlines for the grants are May 15, and June 1). To date no one has applied for any grant. These could be used for a new demo garden.

**Web & Publicity:** The new website is almost online, and will be after it has been reviewed by YCMGA members. There are now 50 job descriptions online; 90% of the drafts are available on "Box." Tom is leaning on the last procrastinators to send in their information.

**Seed to Supper:** 4 3-hour classes are going, though Sheridan was slow to start. A sponsor is still being sought, and when the classes conclude, the committee and program will be reorganized.

**Mentoring Committee:** Not much news here. Joan has been added to the committee.

**Plant Sale Committee/Perennial Propagation:** Lots of plant donations for the sale have been received from Master Gardeners, including some for Seed-to-Supper. There is a perennial problem (get it???) in getting more help on Tuesdays. All the delphiniums died, but then they came back to life and now need to be tagged.

**Scholarship Committee:** Scholarship applications are due by the end of April; we're waiting!

**Spring into Gardening:** Carol has volunteered to be the much-needed co-chair, a meeting will occur, and in May the results of the meeting will be broadcast.

**Annual Propagation:** Actually, most of the annuals are purchased, rather than raised from seed; transplanting has been completed.

**Plant Sale Committee:** Everything is progressing as hoped. Vendors and publicity are organized, the Fairgrounds is cooperating, and Marcia made a dazzling map for the sale layout.

**Policies and Procedures:** This has already been discussed (in Web/Publicity). Pat, Virginia, and Sue are working on it, and hoping that there is no deadline involved. In fact, they don't even know if they have a *timeline* for it. Anything that is an OSU policy, anything that is done regularly (like meetings), or any type of expectations should be in it. How the by-laws are put into effect, little things like "life-member" requirements, and personnel issues (e.g., behavior, expectations, and how to expel a volunteer) should also be included. Financial policies will be the initial section, and it was strongly emphasized that this will be **a living document— dynamic and eternally developing.**

**Fair Ambassadors:** Polly (who is on the donor/selection committee) reported that 3 students have been chosen to be ambassadors, each receiving a \$1,000 scholarship. The ambassadors will each give 14 different talks to various entities and attend all county events (fairs) in Oregon.

**Horticulture at the Yamhill County Fair:** Master Gardeners are responsible for processing all horticultural entries for the fair. That includes helping people fill out the forms, explaining to some people why they brought in their product in the first place, and arranging it all. Doris used to be the representative in charge of this, and Polly plans to succeed her.

**Hospitality Committee:** Gail Stolz and 4 other volunteers will take over this monumental task from Polly, beginning by shadowing her (in a friendly way) at the plant sale, and ending when she retires from the job in July of 2020.

**Reorganization of demonstration Gardens at Fairgrounds:** Susanne will make a list of all jobs relating to this and email

it to members. **BIG NEWS! A COORDINATOR FOR THE GARDEN HAS BEEN OBTAINED: SUE WILL BEGIN THE JOB IN JANUARY!!** Ideas have been floated to expand the garden across the parking lot (to where the tractor is now stored. The tractor will not become part of the display). Perhaps shade trees and a small park will be created. Mention was made of the idea of somehow honoring all MG's who have died, though no one knows how far back to go. Plaques at the fairgrounds get defaced or stolen (for the bronze). Therefore any acknowledgement should be inside, or could perhaps be granite markers with the names engraved on them. No mention of the cost of this.

Members also stated that it would not be desirable or practical to have dedicated spaces for past members, as there would have to be myriad areas for which we have no room. Also signs for dedicated spaces tend to eventually get removed, then lost, negating their value. Susanne reminded us that the purpose of a demonstration garden is public education, so it would not be the place to honor past members. Sue suggested that there could be a plaque listing dead YCMGA members, much as we have the plaques for hours earned, awards, etc. It would also be engaging to perhaps have a notebook nearby with a page for each person. This could add interest and dignity to the display, but should honor only highly-involved past members. Delineation between "involved" and "highly involved" would have to be arbitrarily decided, and would be a very challenging task. However, Nancy assured us that she will work with Polly to identify nominees, then send the list to general membership for comments.

Ruth noted that the wooden fence at the gardens is ours, and it is rotted.

**Ending:** Rita eventually actually begged anyone to motion an end to the meeting, and Susanne did so. Tonia seconded the motion and at 11:48 am everyone split.