

ATTENDANCE

Star Thomson	Donn Callaham	Sue Nesbitt
Linda Mason		Mary Ann Nolan
Terry Hart	Polly Blum	Gene Nesbitt
Heather Stoven	Lori Anderson	Carolyn Nyquist
Susanne Beukema	Rita Canales	Linda Coakley

Sue Nesbitt called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

SECRETARY'S MINUTES FOR JULY 2023 were approved,

TREASURER'S REPORT: Included in the September financial reports is the regular report entitled, "Budgets vs Actuals". Please take the time to closely review this as it will be used as a template in our budget preparation session during our annual meeting scheduled for October 28th. Each committee chairperson will need to submit their 2024 budgets to Susanne no later than October 15th so that she may prepare the draft budget for our working session. Please call or email if you have any questions.

This year \$3500 was paid in scholarships: a \$1500 grant was carried over from last year, plus the \$2000 for this year. Scholarships are awarded in June, paid in January.

SEPTEMBER HEATHER REPORT: Only 5 people have yet signed up for the Japanese maple class in Gresham (many more are desired). Nominations for YCMGA awards and photos for the MG calendar are both requested as soon as possible. Garden-to-Table classes are scheduled to begin in October, and The Master Gardener training classes will begin in early 2024. There will be only one class per day this year. Format will be the same as last year, though with only one class there won't be room for spectators. Carla has taken it upon herself to review hours for every single YCMGA member and notify members who have not met requirements. She will hound you tirelessly until you record those hours!

ANNOUNCEMENTS: the annual YCMGA meeting will take place on Saturday, October 28th, from 10:00 am to approximately 2:00 pm, in the extension office auditorium. Graduation will be Sunday, November 12th at the Heritage Center in McMinnville. At the last graduation the supply of food ran out before everyone had eaten, leaving some hungry and disappointed. This was due to two factors: Many people brought family members (but not extra food), and some people actually thought the reference to names by alphabet referred to their **first** names, and therefore brought the wrong category of food!! Since using the alphabet proved debilitating, we will go back to everyone bringing whatever they want, and no longer use that concept. Also,

YCMGA will supply 2 kinds of meat (cooked and sliced by a vendor) and people will be asked to bring more food if they bring more people. Polly will compare supplier information for the meats.

P **LANT SALE 2024:** The committee looking at venues for the plant sale found the following:

- 1) The Heritage Center would work only with extensive use of **large** tents as indoor space is limited.
 - 2) Church on the Hill is no longer available to us.
 - 3) The armory has very adequate facilities, and low rates for table and chair rentals (just 50 cents per chair!) But no price yet.
 - 4) The fairgrounds are still iffy. There is a **verbal** agreement from the karting association that they *might* let use their area for parking. However, that must be approved by their board. No one knows when they will meet. Fairgrounds pricing is increasing next year. Star emphasized that we should have at least informal written proof of any agreement related to using the fairgrounds before considering it an option. Last year's experience with the fairgrounds shows the essential need for a clear and thorough written contract. The Fairgrounds board now requires a \$600 **non-refundable** deposit, *even if fairground personnel make a decision which forces cancellation of any event.*
- 1) No facilities have yet quoted prices.
 - 2) Available dates at each facility are:
 - Fairgrounds: first weekend in May
 - Armory: second weekend in May
 - Heritage Center : either of the above.

E **DUCTION GARDENS:** gardens are flourishing, as are weeds. An encouraging fact is that 3 well-established plants (15-plus years old) which seemed to have been killed

C **OMMUNITY GARDEN** has now donated 6,580 pounds of produce to YCAP to date. All beds are being rototilled because of the hardpan beneath them.

E **DUCTION/OUTREACH:** Kids' activities at the fair were eminently successful, and ran for two days instead of the planned one. The plan now is to push more Childrens' activities at future Farmers' Markets, and procure small tables, chairs, and kits in totes for that. We did 10 plant clinics this year (not counting Farmers' Markets) and are planning more events for the public. The YCMGA website brought in every member of the public who attended the event, further demonstrating the lack of value of hard copy advertising. A tour of a mushroom farm is being considered. Group meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 4th, at 1:00 pm.

O **MGA R****EPORT:** from OSU Extension Program Coordinator – Brooke Edmunds OMGA booth at the State Fair was staffed, all shifts, all 10 days, from 10AM-8PM. The State Program Coordinator search is still on-going. The deadline for applications was 9/12 but will have to be extended due to a small amount of applicants at this time. Chapter search for program coordinator

Tillamook: search committee has been formed.

Douglas: on hold

Curry: office manager filling in the position

Josephine: interim person running it now. Unknown if will become a

permanent position.

Linn/Benton: No decision yet.

Joy of Gardening: (130) people attended

Revenue: 23,026 Expenses: 19,673 Net: 3,353

FYI: rental of the OSU Alumni Center \$9,552/ Catering: \$5,198

Silent Auction: \$5800 . Many chapters sent a check for \$250 rather than actual items. The auction is the only item which kept the entire event out of the red.

2024 date: 7/12 & 7/13 Will start the planning process much earlier than last year.

Volunteers are needed. The book seller wants to come back since he made a good profit.

Ideas for next year's:

1. (1) day attendance rather than mandatory (2) day.
2. Publicize "Send A Friend" grants. Only (3) were utilized out of (10) available. \$100 grant.
3. Publicize RV/trailer/camping via KOA and the fairgrounds.
4. Lunch was a problem. People were to purchase the lunch and provide a ticket. Somehow It became an "honor system" and people ate from the salad bar without paying. Since a certain amount was ordered according to the purchased tickets, they ran out of food. Won't happen again!
5. Alumni Center: Great location for our convention. AV support great. They have an OSU approved list of caterers that can only be used there. We may try another one on the list for 2024. Box lunch would be a better option than a salad bar.
6. **Treasurer's Report**: Our current treasurer is a retired accountant who is always very diligent and conservative about the OMGA's finances. Currently have \$125,000 in assets. She is currently investigating a new liability insurance company for OMGA. It is a company which covers many non-profit organizations and understands their concerns about being sued. At this point we will have much better protection for close to the current price, which is \$1100/yr. She'll take the information to the OMGA board for discussion and approval. Then will offer it to all chapters.

Policies & Procedures Update: A committee has been working on condensing and updating this, and has streamlined the number of pages from 58 to 17! Close to being finished.

Advocacy Report: Sherry pleased how our letters/emails/phone calls did make a difference with the legislators and OSU administration. She is worried about OSU filling the positions with people who have no or little horticulture background or degrees. Now it's up to

Dr. Lyles to make his decision. He did send a video to the conference thanking OMGA chapters for our input and advocacy. Advocacy group will be reactivated for the next emergency.

OMGA Board Vacancies: There are at least three vacancies to be filled for 2024. Vice President is open as well as Secretary and also Database/List Serve which Seamus has done for many years.

P

UBLICITY: Nancy and other volunteers posted posters in 74 locations in 4 towns. She also sent a notice to

every Master Gardener chapter in Oregon, and to all horticulture related clubs/organization in this county. One person complained at the board meeting that the local garden club made no mention of our event, but Nancy has no power over what they do or do not tell people. Social media accounts were also used, and bookmarks left in high-traffic areas. Unfortunately, the two best locations for promotion no longer allow posters in their businesses.

Another person was apparently (for no reason they could specify) deeply concerned that Nancy had not sent emails to all the people on old YCMGA lists. The lists, though old and to a large extent obsolete,

were still used, so no one need torment themselves with their fear that Nancy has been feckless in her publicity responsibilities.

Nancy is of the opinion that posters and similar hard copy advertisements are not worth the expense and effort and have little to any effect on event attendance. Social media is the communication preference now.

A**WARDS:** Nancy will be ordering the plaques and having a close friend make the board for them to honor our supporters. There are 8 supportive entities, beginning in 2014, who will be acknowledged.

G**ARDEN-TO-TABLE** has been more successful than hoped this year. Classes are capped at 40 participants, and 37 are now registered. Facebook and the News-Register article appear to have drawn the most applicants. All of the low-income participants appear to have been reached by Facebook. Posters displayed around town do not appear to have value. The first class this year is not income-related, so there will be no freebies such as raised beds or free plants. The class in spring will be specifically for low-income clients, and grants for that class are now being sought.

F**ARMERS' MARKETS:** Almost all the slots for working at this Farmers' Market have been filled with only a few openings left. There are two weeks left for the Newberg market, and Peter has said he will be back at the very end of the season.

M**ENTORING COMMITTEE:** Plans are being developed for next year's class. A few more mentors are still needed.

I**NSECT COMMITTEE:** The insect committee is still meeting every other Thursday as specimens are being received regularly. The invitation to attend the meetings is always extended to all YCMGA members. It's always BYOB (bring your own bug) if possible.

S**PRING-INTO-GARDENING:** Rita Canales will head the committee effort this year (2024) but she will not do it after this year. The promise has been made that it will improve in the future. The first meeting will be October second, and the event itself will take place on March sixteenth.

U**NFINISHED BUSINESS:** The question of whether or not to keep our subscription to Shopify is being considered. Although it is only \$96 per year, we may no longer have any need for it (with in-person plant sales). The database can be downloaded, though it does not include photos. Of course the database needs to be updated, and photos added.

Star motioned to end the meeting, Donn seconded. The meeting ended at 11:36 a.m.

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