

Northeast TN Master Gardener Board Meeting

Ron Ramsey Agricultural Center

Date: May 1, 2023

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Barbara Voigt, Carl Voigt, Brenda McKinnis, Karen Rowell, Millie Sue Hawk, Chris Ramsey, John Hitchcock, Mary Ann Lovelace, Nancy Shilling, Mary Cain, Kathy Wagner, Larry Wagner, Valerie Jondahl

MEMBERS ABSENT: Don Davis, Linda Spisak, Karen Todd, Andrea Belcher, Teresa Gaffner, Barb Radice, Betts Leach, Gwen Ellis, Heather Duby, Susie Morrison

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

The meeting was called to order by the President, Karen Rowell. The board introduced themselves to Valerie Jondahl, the new Washington County class representative.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mary Cain

The minutes were reviewed from the 3-6-23 Board meeting. Brenda McKinnis made the motion to approve the 3-6-23 minutes and the motion was seconded by Millie Sue Hawk.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mary Ann Lovelace

The motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by John Hitchcock and seconded by Nancy Shilling. The motion was approved.

PROJECT REPORT AND GRANTS FOR 2023: Don Davis

Don Davis was absent but had reported to Karen that there were 8 projects requests so far. All were approved. The project leads have been informed that all receipts are to be turned in by 10-1-23.

PROGRAMS FOR 2023: Susie Morrison

Susie was absent. It was reported that the June 5 program will be at the home of Sue and Frank DiCarlo. Also, it was mentioned that the August meeting was to be determined.

MEMBERSHIP/CERTIFICATION REPORT: Mary Cain

1. There are still discrepancies between the UT roster and the NETMGA roster but Andrea Belcher has said that steps were being made to correct the UT roster. Inactive members have been marked inactive. Several current members have not registered on the UT site. As of 3-23-23 there are 132 paid members on the NETMGA roster and 19 remaining Master Gardeners that have not paid 2023 dues. These non-paying members were sent a letter stating that they will be marked inactive on the UT Roster. Chris Ramsey has consulted with a UT attorney about liability involved in non-members working on Master Gardener projects. He reported that if any non-members want to participate in a project, they can but if they continue to

participate, they must provide the necessary paperwork in order to satisfy requirement of UT. This is especially relevant if underage children are present.

2. The Google Drive roster contains the 13 Washington County 2022 interns which increases the total NETMGA membership to 166. We had one deceased member, Louise Mann, removed from the current roster.
3. There were 32 active members who had not returned their printed copy of the *Volunteer Agreement* which is to be updated annually. An email reminder was sent to those who did not submit the form. Many forms have been returned.

PUBLICITY: Brenda McKinnis (Nancy Shilling)

Brenda reported that the *Ask a Master Gardener* project is ongoing and doing well. There will be booths set up at the Kingsport Farmer's Market and the farmer's market in Jonesboro. There may be *Ask a Master Gardener* booths also at the markets in Johnson City and in Bristol. Brenda may be the designated coordinator of all the booths.

COMMUNICATIONS: Heather Duby

(absent)

NEWSLETTER: Betts Leach

(absent)

FACEBOOK: Heather Duby

(absent)

MENTORS: John Hitchcock

John reported that the mentors were working adequately. However, some of the mentors need to contact members more frequently.

WEBSITE: Carl & Barbara Voigt

There has been progress on a new website. John Hitchcock has begun organizing information into a new format. It was requested that each board member research other Master Gardener websites for suggestions that will help the redesign of the new NETMGA website. Suggestions should be submitted for consideration before the 7-10-23 board meeting. Brenda McKinnis suggested that all suggestions should be submitted to Karen Rowell or John Hitchcock for consideration by 6-26-23.

HOSPITALITY: Larry & Kathy Wagner

Kathy suggested that only drinks and simple snacks be provided for membership meetings. There will no longer be serving utensils, kitchen requests, serving plates, etc. available for meetings. Finger foods only.

SULLIVAN COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT: Chris Ramsey

Covid guidelines can be removed from the NETMGA website. Chris reiterated the need for non-master gardeners to have UT forms submitted if they continue to work on approved Master Gardener projects. Chris also reminded everyone present of the Cattlemen's Steak Dinner and Auction at the Extension Office this Saturday at 6.00 p.m. The cost of the dinner is \$25.00. Additionally, Chris reported that the beef cattle farm tour had been a success.

NEW BUSINESS:

The most prominent new business item was the new website being organized by John Hitchcock.

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING PLANS

The next general membership meeting is scheduled for June 5 at Frank and Sue DiCarlo's home.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next board meeting will be July 10 at the Washington County Extension Office in Jonesborough, Tennessee.

Meeting was adjourned by Karen Rowell.