

Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Board Meeting
Ron Ramsey Agricultural Center
September 11, 2023

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kathy Wagner, Larry Wagner, Barbara Voigt, Carl Voigt, Brenda McKinnis, Millie Sue Hawk, John Hitchcock, Mary Cain, Greg Lawson, Valerie Jondahl, Nancy Shilling, Karen Rowell, Susie Morrison

MEMBERS ABSENT: Adam Watson, Don Davis, Mary Ann Lovelace, Nancy Shilling, Chris Ramsey, Linda Spisak, Karen Todd, Andrea Belcher, Betts Leach, Gwen Ellis, Heather Duby, Justus Frye

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

The meeting was called to order by Karen Rowell.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mary Cain

The minutes were reviewed from the 7-10-23 Board meeting. John Hitchcock made the motion to approve the 7-10-23 minutes and the motion was seconded by Valerie Jondahl.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Mary Ann Lovelace was absent) Karen Rowell

Mary Ann presented the budget as of 9-11-23.

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

PROJECT REPORT AND GRANTS FOR 2023: Don Davis

(Don was absent)

It was reported that the deadline for project grants is October 1, 2023.

PROGRAMS FOR 2023: Susie Morrison

Susie reminded everyone that there were 2 programs remaining for 2023.

1. The October 2 meeting will be at the Ron Ramsey Agricultural Center at 6.30 pm. The program will involve a presentation of the program highlights of Carver Peace Garden in Johnson City (?), the Hospital Gardens of Johnson City and the Discovery Gardens at the Hands On! Discovery Center in Gray. Each presentation will be about 20 minutes long explaining the history of the project and future plans. There was discussion about having each member of NEMGA complete a survey during the meeting. Door prizes will be associated with turning in the completed surveys.
2. The December 2 Membership Meeting will be the annual Christmas Dinner held at the Ron Ramsey Agricultural Center. Susie reported that the Cattlemen's Association will be contacted to provide the meal. Desserts may be included with the dinner or

may be donated by the membership. There will be a group to sing Christmas Music as the entertainment. Susie said that she would check on the availability of the large meeting room for December 4. There will be a vegetarian option. There was mention to have Christmas cactus instead of poinsettias.

MEMBERSHIP/CERTIFICATION REPORT: Mary Cain

1. The 19 members who did not pay 2023 dues have been marked inactive on the UT roster and will be removed from the NETMGA spreadsheet. There are several members have not registered on the UT site. As of 7-7-23 there are 137 paid members on the NETMGA roster for Sullivan County and 12 paid members on the roster for Washington County.
2. The NETMGA Google Drive roster contains the 12 Washington County 2022 interns which increases the total NETMGA membership to 149 active paid members. Including the 25 new interns in the Sullivan County 2023 class, the total membership is 174.
3. Mary mentioned that as of the first of March the NETMGA spreadsheet was current and located in the Google Drive folder. It does not include the new intern class of 2023 from Sullivan County.
4. Membership dues and paperwork for 2024 will be mailed during the week of November 13. The dues are \$25.00 for individual membership and \$35.00 for couples. There was discussion of offering the option of paying by way of a QR code placed on the Membership form. Cash or checks will still be accepted.

PUBLICITY: Brenda McKinnis (Nancy Shilling)

Brenda reported that the *Ask a Master Gardener* program is still going well. The proposed video version of articles is still pending.

COMMUNICATIONS: Heather Duby

(Heather was absent)

NEWSLETTER: Betts Leach

(Betts was absent)

FACEBOOK: Heather Duby

Valerie Jondahl has volunteered to work as a co-chair along with Heather Duby. The title is changing to Social Media to replace Facebook.

MENTORS: John Hitchcock

John reported that there were no changes with the mentor program.

WEBSITE: Carl & Barbara Voigt

Barb reported that the website is currently up to date. It was mentioned that all projects should be contacted for updated pictures.

HOSPITALITY: Larry & Kathy Wagner (Susie Morrison)

Someone will contact Andrea Belcher concerning the available supplies for the October and December meetings.

WASHINGTON COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT: Adam Watson

(Adam was absent)

SULLIVAN COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT: Chris Ramsey

(Chris was absent)

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Karen suggested exploring the possibility of putting \$2500 of the checking balance in an ECU CD account. John Hitchcock made the motion which was seconded by Carl Voigt. It should be a short-term CD.
2. There was some discussion about alternating day classes with evening classes in order to make Master Gardener training more available to a larger range of people.
3. Exchange Place is in need of volunteers for the Fall Festival. The Pepper Festival scheduled for 9-23-23 has been fully staffed.

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING PLANS

The next NETMGA Membership meeting is scheduled for October 2 at the Ron Ramsey Agricultural Center at 6.30 pm.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next NETMGA Board meeting is scheduled for November 6 at Washington County Extension Office in Jonesboro at 6.30 pm.

Meeting was adjourned Karen Rowell.