

Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Board Meeting
Washington County Extension Office
November 6, 2023

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Barbara Voigt, Carl Voigt, Brenda McKinnis, Millie Sue Hawk, John Hitchcock, Mary Cain, Greg Lawson, Valerie Jondahl, Karen Rowell, Susie Morrison, Adam Watson, Don Davis, Mary Ann Lovelace, Chris Ramsey, Justus Frye

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kathy Wagner, Larry Wagner, Nancy Shilling, Linda Spisak, Karen Todd, Andrea Belcher, Betts Leach, Gwen Ellis, Heather Duby

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 9-11-23 board meeting. There were minor additions made. John Hitchcock made the motion to approve the minutes; Greg Lawson seconded the motion.

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

Mary Ann presented the budget as of 11-6-23.

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 reported that all projects have gone smoothly in 2023 and the 7 awarded project grant funds seem to have been used well.

PROGRAMS FOR 2023: Susie Morrison

Most of the discussion focused around the December 4th Membership meeting which is the annual Christmas Dinner. The Cattleman's Association is preparing the meal. The doors at Ron Ramsey Regional Agricultural Center will open at 6.00 p.m. with the meal beginning at 6.15 p.m. The Ladies Chorus will provide entertainment during dinner. The cost of the meal is \$25.00 with the cost being \$10.00 from each member and the remaining \$15.00 being paid by NETMGA. The motion to accept these plans was made by Millie Sue Hawk and seconded by John Hitchcock. Each NETMGA member may bring one guest and pay for that guest. The meal will be provided for the main entertainment.

MEMBERSHIP/CERTIFICATION REPORT: Mary Cain

1. The 19 members who did not pay 2023 dues have been marked inactive on the UT roster and have been removed from the NETMGA spreadsheet. There are several

members have not registered on the UT site. As of 11-5-23 there are 137 paid members on the NETMGA roster for Sullivan County and 13 paid members on the roster for Washington County.

2. The NETMGA spreadsheet roster contains the 13 Washington County 2022 interns which increases the total NETMGA membership to 150 active paid members. Including the 25 new interns in the Sullivan County 2023 class, the total membership is 175.
3. Mary mentioned that the NETMGA spreadsheet was current and located in the Google Drive folder.
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. This form of payment has been deferred until next year. Dues payment can be mailed in or paid at the December meeting. All required forms must accompany the payment. Late dues payment can be made at the February Membership meeting.

PUBLICITY: Brenda McKinnis (Nancy Shilling)

Brenda reported that the *Ask a Master Gardener* program is still doing well. She mentioned beginning a project involved the development of a program to help make people's yards more pollinator friendly. More information is needed on how to make a yard a Smart Yard. It was reported that Katie O'Lenic is still writing for the *Ask a Master Garden* program but does not wish to edit.

COMMUNICATIONS: Heather Duby

(absent)

NEWSLETTER: Betts Leach

(absent)

FACEBOOK: Valerie Jondahl

Valerie reported that all is going well.

MENTORS: John Hitchcock

John has taken over the duties from Doug Hilton.

WEBSITE: Carl & Barbara Voigt

Carl reported that 2 projects have updated their programs. All else seems to be going well.

HOSPITALITY: Larry & Kathy Wagner (Susie Morrison)

Susie reported that all seemed to be going well.

WASHINGTON COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT: Adam Watson

Adam confirmed that there were 13 in the new class and that 7 have already been certified. These new members will be expected to pay dues for 2024. There was discussion of adding an additional project at the Jonesborough Senior Center at Lincoln Park.

SULLIVAN COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT: Chris Ramsey

There was a discussion involving offering a nighttime class. Chris reported that there was better membership retention with participants of day-time classes which is the recommendation by UT. The new class will continue to be via Zoom. Chris reported that most Master Gardener class programs in the state follow the UT schedule. As of right now there will be no night class in 2024. The new class will meet from 1-30-24 until 4-30-24 on Tuesdays from 10.00 a.m. until noon and will be \$200.00. The suggestion was made to have a current project review at each class limited to a five-minute presentation. There was also discussion of having an afternoon “open house” type of event to share information on all current garden opportunities.

NEW BUSINESS:

Karen Rowell mentioned that there will be an election of officers at the December meeting. Susie Morrison has agreed to be the Vice President elect in 2024 and become the NETMGA president in 2025. Justus Fry and Greg Lawson are contemplating becoming the leaders of the Program Committee. Karen Rowell will continue being the president, Mary Cain will continue as secretary, the treasurer’s position will be filled by Mary Ann Lovelace, John Hitchcock will continue with mentoring, and Brenda McKinnis will help with the program committee. There was also discussion to buy a “brick” for the flag pole area at the Ron Ramsey Ag Center for \$200.00 to honor Doug Hilton. The motion was made by Millie Sue Hawk to allocate funds for this project; the motion was seconded by Mary Ann Lovelace.

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING PLANS

The next membership meeting will be the annual Christmas Dinner at Ron Ramsey Agricultural Center on December 4 at 6.00 p.m.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next NETMGA board meeting will be at the Ron Ramsey Agricultural Center on January 8.

Meeting was adjourned by Karen Rowell.