

LPMGA Executive Board Meeting Minutes
February 2019 Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 19, 2019/1:00 p.m.
Ira Nelson Horticulture Center – Library
2206 Johnston St, Lafayette, LA 70503

Call to Order: LAFMG President, Juan Nieto, called the Executive Board Meeting to order at approximately 1:05 p.m.

Roll Call:

Juan Nieto
Colette Anzalone
Ellen Garacci
Patricia Soileau
Marsha Bayer
Mary Gladney
Louann McClelland-Long
Dan Devenport
MaryAnn Armbruster
Debbie Dupuy
Paul Manual
Meagan Stogsdill
Theresa Rohloff

President: Juan Nieto called for the approval of the February Board Meeting minutes
Collette Anzalone moved to approve the February minutes
Ellen Garacci seconded the motion
Motion passed

Juan Nieto thanked Louann McClelland-Long for stepping-in to complete the term of Jay Ruffin as Volunteer Coordinator.

Juan has formed an ad-hoc committee to attend a planned state-wide advisory panel for Louisiana Master Gardener programs. The purpose of the committee is to address issues and problems that each area is experiencing and to resolve conflicts with some rules established by LSU. Juan will extend an invitation to Babette Werner, asking her to attend our next Board Meeting.

Juan requested that Board Members review our Handbook and have topics to be addressed by the advisory committee.

Committee members are:

Babette Werner – Chair
Louann McClelland-Long
Juan Nieto

Volunteer Coordinator: Louann McClelland-Long will be including, in our monthly newsletters, the total of volunteer and continuing education hours recorded, year-to-date.

Discussion of recording status of our Sustaining Members.

At Membership Meetings, Louann will have forms available for members to list their volunteer and continuing education hours. Louann will record their hours for those that are having trouble completing this task.

Dan Devenport requested that Louann give him a list of the 2018 class members that have not completed their 40-hour volunteer obligation. He would like to remind them of their commitment.

Louann has been distributing name badges and replacement name badges.

Charles Hebert has requested administrative access to our volunteer reporting site.

Vice President: Colette Anzalone, has been scheduling speakers for our monthly Membership Meetings.

May: Social at the home of Pam Womack – May 1st

June: Charles Hebert – MG Rules & Codes – June 5th

July: No Meeting

August: May: Gary Chappe – Irrigation – August 7th

Dan suggested that, if we are in need of speakers, we could check with Babette Werner. There may be a few 2018 class members that might be interested in sharing the presentations they prepared as part of their class work.

Treasurer: Debbie Dupuy, will be writing a check for our booths at Festival des Fleurs. We are paying \$225.00 (3 booths at \$75/each).

She will also include our donation of \$1,500 that was approved by the Board in February.

Corresponding Secretary: Ellen Garacci, as vendors pay for booths at Festival des Fleurs, she is sharing their information on our MG Facebook page.

Horticulture Hints will be bundled and available for distribution at our April Membership Meeting

Ellen sent cards to Becky Taylor (husband Mike)

Gail McGee-Evans (her mother died)

17 people attended our Plant Swap at Sarah Schoeffler's home.

Recording Secretary: Patricia Soileau, present – no report

Member-At-Large: Marsha Bayer, asked if there was a way to identify members working our booth at Festival des Fleurs. Workers are allowed entry without purchasing a ticket. Can we have a sign-in sheet at the entry booth?

Handbook Committee: Louann McClelland-Long, noted that our handbook does not give a list of duties for the Board Members in Job Descriptions. This may require review and assistance of each Board Member.

Returning Member:

Dan Devenport, received a call from a former Lafayette MG, Sheryl Pere (class of 2003). Sheryl has been living in Houston and is moving back to Lafayette and would like to re-join our organization. After discussion, Patricia Soileau moved that Sheryl Pere be allowed to re-join our organization. She will be required to pay her 2019 Membership Dues and complete 20 hours of volunteer work and 6 hours of continuing education.

MaryAnn Armbruster seconded the motion.

Motion Passed

AgCenter Agent: Dan Devenport, received a call from Meg Heidtmar with LSU Eunice in Acadia/St. Landry Parish

They are trying to find MG members willing to assist with/give continuing education classes. They are willing to pay our organization for the speakers.

MaryAnn Armbruster has agreed to contact Ms. Heidtmar.

Calcasieu Parish Ag Agent, Robert Turley, in Lake Charles is organizing/hosting the Southwest Louisiana Garden Expo on March 22 & 23 at the Burden Coliseum. Dan encouraged all to attend, wearing their MG badges.

Ellen Garacci offered to share info with vendors about our Festival des Fleurs

March 19th was the 4-H Achievement Day. Four or five MGs volunteered, it was a successful event.

Newsletter: Mary Gladney, asked if the monthly report of volunteer hours should be included in the newsletter. It was agreed that it should be included.

In the next newsletter, Mary will also include a thank you letter, received from Charles Hebert, to the volunteers that assisted with the School Garden Initiative Cook-Off.

Speaker's Bureau:

Juan Nieto said that the first Garden Talk at All Season's Nursery was a success.

April speaker will be Mary Gladney, discussing Orchids

May speaker will be Dan Devenport, discussing Lawns

Speakers and demonstrations at Festival des Fleurs will have ability to use Power Point and slide shows this year. Scheduling speakers should be finalized soon.

Southern Garden Festival speakers are scheduled.

Sustaining Members:

Juan noted that there are a few Sustaining Members that are displeased about the requirement to record their volunteer and continuing education hours. Juan asked, what can we do to keep these members?

Discussion of additional pin, to be worn near member's name badges, in recognition of those that have achieved Sustaining Member status.

Patricia Soileau asked if we should send a survey to Sustaining Members, discussing how they would like to be recognized and what do they feel needs to be done, while being in compliance with LSU's policies?

Top Ten Volunteers:

Dan Devenport asked if a blurb could be included in each month's newsletter, reminding members that the ten members with the most volunteer hours recorded by the end of November, will be recognized at the December Social.

2018 Class Members:

We would like to recognize each 2018 class member as they complete their 40-hour volunteer obligation. Would like their names included in the monthly newsletter.

School Garden Initiative:

Juan Nieto is asking for volunteers for this program. Many current members are cutting back on their activities or moving on to other projects and we need replacement volunteers.

You Tube Account:

Meagan Stogsdill (class of 2015) offered to take our old recording of the AOC videos and transfer them to our You Tube account, allowing members to receive continuing education hours for viewing them. These You Tube videos can be linked with our Facebook account. We can also record speakers, propagation activities, Festival speakers, etc.

Patricia Soileau moved that we re-activate the existing or create a new You Tube account. This includes approval of \$100 for the purchase of software, enabling us to transfer existing continuing education recordings and the volunteer hours needed to complete the transfer of these recordings. Patricia also moved that the recording of any additional educational material (i.e. propagation, garden talks, presentations, activities promoting our events, etc.) will be an approved volunteer activity. Viewing these materials will earn members continuing education hours, effective immediately.

MaryAnn Armbruster seconded the motion.
Motion passed

Social Media Committee:

The board discussed forming a Social Media Committee that would include Facebook, Twitter, You Tube, our Web Page and any other social media that may evolve.
Vote was postponed until we can review the path and activities that would be involved.

Announcements:

The April Board Meeting will be Tuesday, April 16th at 1:00 p.m. at Ira Nelson

April Membership Meeting – Wednesday, April 3rd, 12:30 p.m. at the downtown branch of the Lafayette Public Library.

Adjournment: With no further business to discuss, Juan requested a motion to adjourn.
MaryAnn Armbruster moved that the meeting be adjourned
Marsha Bayer seconded the motion
Motion passed
Meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Patricia Soileau
LPMGA Recording Secretary
Approved: _____