

LPMGA General Meeting Minutes

Southside Library

Wednesday February 1, 2023 /12:00 P.M.

Call to Order: LPMGA President Mary Gladney called the General Membership meeting to order at 12:04 PM.

Introduction of Guest Speakers: Vice -President and Chairman of Programs, Bootsie Durand, introduced the guest speakers, Rodi Lyn Aucoin and Kerry Hoffpauir, Physical Therapists from RISE Physical Therapy and Sports Lab. They presented information on methods that gardeners can use to avoid aches and pains and injury while gardening. They stressed the importance of stretching and strengthening muscles to prevent injury. A handout of exercises was provided along with instructions. Members had questions and comments about their own equipment. Cindy Wiley also provided information on a battery powered garden branch pruner by Hammacher Schlemmer. Sherlyn Larrison also mentioned a battery powered nozzle for spray bottles.

Approval of January 4, 2023 General Membership Meeting Minutes

Christine Devenport moved to accept the January minutes. Cheryl Perret seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as submitted.

President's Report: Mary Gladney

Mary announced that the 2023 budget is being finalized and will be presented to the Board this month. It is expected to be sent to the membership for approval in March.

March 1-May 31, 2023 volunteer MGs will be asked to answer "Ask A Master Gardener" calls and questions at the AG Office, one day per week, for 4 hours. Maddox is working on a program to sign up online. Mary also noted that the MG

office, located at the Lafayette Parish Ag office, now has a new computer, monitor and desk for us to use.

New Chairmen for the Children's Garden are Susan Dore, Susan Durio and Laura Codrescu.

Mary stated that we need a Cottage Keeper at Propagation as Judy Corne is stepping down.

Paul Manuel, MIGT Class Coordinator, will continue with the class in 2023, but plans to step down in 2024. He is looking for an MG to volunteer for Co-Chair this year, and to replace him in 2024.

Past President Report: Juan Neito

Juan Nieto called on Linda Beyt, SGI Chairman, to report on the upcoming "On Cuisine du Jardin" Cook-Off scheduled for Saturday, February 4, 2023. Linda asked for volunteers for Friday, Feb 3 to set up at David Thibodaux STEM Academy. She asked for volunteer assignments for Saturday. The Lafayette Junior League has also volunteered to assist with educational tables at the event.

Juan is asking for volunteers for Festival de Fleurs to be held on April, 15, 2023 at Blackman Coliseum. Please contact Juan if you are interested.

He also announced that Robert Darnell, (Class of 2022) will be speaking on "Sustainable Vegetable Gardening" (with focus on tomatoes) at Scott Library on Tuesday, February 7 at 7:00 PM

The Moncus Park Committee (Juan and Mazie Movassaghi, Chairs, with Genee Foley, Liz Hanes and Alice Blakewood) continue to find and coordinate speakers for the Moncus Park programs.

Vice- President's Report: Bootsie Durand

Bootsie Durand continues to meet with the committee to plan a fundraising event. This event, "Dans Le Jardin" (In the Garden) will be held on May 20, 2023 at the Hilton Garden Inn on Congress St. The program, which will be open to the public, will feature speakers Allen Owens and Felder Rushing, along with several break-out sessions. It will be held from 8:30- 1:30 (light lunch will be served) and

will cost approximately \$50. The committee is looking at offering free plants and door prizes to attendees.

Treasurer's Report: Angela Moles

Angela reported that in January the Beginning Balance was \$34,592.45. The organization showed a Cleared Balance of \$29,384.60 and an Ending Balance of \$34,355.37. The yearly budget is expected to be presented for member approval in March, 2023.

Corresponding Secretary: Meagan Stogsdill (absent)

Louann McClelland -Long stated that Meagan is still working on the membership list. If you have not sent all required forms (committee choices, Code of Conduct) please do so ASAP. The MG Discount cards are being printed and should be available at the next membership meeting.

Recording Secretary's Report: Mary Kramer (No Report)

Membership Coordinator: Louann McClelland- Long

Louann reminded the members that the required number of volunteer hours for all but the 2022 class is now back up to 20 (was reduced during COVID).

Any new projects, for which volunteer hours are recorded, needs to be approved by the LPMG Board, and ultimately, LSU AG, before voluntary hours can be counted. This is due to liability insurance. The list of Approved activities and projects are available on the MG website and are updated each year. If you are uncertain whether an activity is on the list, please contact Louann. She again reminded the members that travel (to and from) an educational or voluntary event can be counted as time. There are some stipulations if the travel distance is over 250 miles (ex: out of state event) that need special approval.

Louann further stated that she has recently posted several upcoming educational seminars and programs on the MG Facebook page which are available to attend in Louisiana and in Texas. Members can contact Louann with questions about earning and recording hours.

The Handbook Committee should receive the final revisions this month. After approval, the updated Handbook needs to be sent to the Board for approval.

Member At Large: Christine Devenport (No Report)

LSU AgCenter: Maddox Miller

Maddox also reminded the members about the School Garden Cook Off and brought posters to ask for members to bring to businesses to help advertise.

He also explained (in addition to Louann's reporting information earlier) that the LSU Risk Management Office in Baton Rouge, needs a Quarterly list of LPMGA approved projects to comply for insurance purposes.

He announced several job openings at the Lafayette Ag office, which are also listed on the LSU Ag website.

He is working to line up a Genius Software program, so that MGs can volunteer on line for the "Ask A Master Gardener" spots, beginning in March at the Ag office.

In addition, beginning soon, the Lafayette Parish MG Class Application will be available online. Interested persons can still apply on paper applications as well.

In other announcements, Maddox said that The United Way and the Lafayette Parish Library will soon start a Seed Project. This may be a possible new education opportunity for LPMGA.

The recent Livestock show had wood shavings left over in the barn. If members need any, please call Maddox. He also thanked the Propagation team for providing his lunch during the livestock show

Committee Reports:

Meredith's Place:

Theresa Guidry announced that the 1st phase of garden set-up will be held on Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 9:00AM. The facility is located at 800 Pitt Road in Scott. 17 MGs volunteered and will receive detailed information in email.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Announcements:

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 15 at 1:00pm at Ira Nelson (date changed due to Mardi Gras). Committee Chairmen are welcome to attend or can submit their reports to Mary Gladney.

The next General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 1, 2023. The downtown Library cannot be used due to roof repair and unavailability of parking lot. Members will be notified of an alternate meeting place. The guest speaker will be Dan Devenport, retired LSU Ag Horticulturalist.

71 members signed the meeting roster. Jess Richmond won the door prize.

Adjournment: Mary Gladney requested a motion to adjourn. Christine Devenport moved to adjourn the meeting and Lynne Nix seconded the motion, Meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:37 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Kramer

LPMGA Recording Secretary