

LPMGA General Meeting
Wednesday January 4, 2023
South Regional Library

January meeting was called to order at 12:01 pm. President Mary Gladney led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice President Bootsie Durand then began the meeting by introducing the speaker, Lue Svendson. Lue is a landscape architect who also does landscape oil paintings. She spoke on the similarities between oil paintings and working in landscape design.

Mary introduced the 2023 LPMGA board.

President – Mary Gladney

Vice President – Bootsie Durand

Past President – Juan Nieto

Treasurer – Angela Moles

Recording Secretary – Mary Kramer

Corresponding Secretary – Meagan Stogsdill

Member at Large – Christine Devenport

Volunteer Coordinator – Louann McClelland-Long

Mary reminded the membership to pay dues if they have not already. Dues are now \$25 as there is a \$5 late fee after December 31st. Checks will be deposited by the end of the week (1/6/23).

Mary informed everyone that Angela Moles the treasurer is working on a budget for the 2023 year. In looking at the budget it has been discovered that two of the programs that are most important to our club, and speak most to who LPMGA is as a group are also our biggest expenditures – our MG class and the School Garden Initiative. Discussions are happening to try and find new ways of raising money. The board approved an ad hoc committee, chaired by Bootsie, to look at creating an additional fundraiser. Angela is creating a financial committee that will help her toward the end of each year put together a budget for operating the next year. The budget will be given to the board for approval, and then to the membership for approval and suggestions.

There has been discussion on raising the class fee to compensate for the rising cost of materials for the class. Babette Werner explained that the class's fee does cover the cost of the class, but since the board has always chosen to cover the graduating members meals at their graduation the numbers are skewed. Maddox Miller checked with Sara Shields and she confirmed there are other MG organization in the state charging more for their classes. A raise in annual membership dues has also been discussed, but no decision has been made. Dues have not been raised in several years. Dues are currently \$20.

Mary and several MGs cleaned out our room at the Ag Center. It was discovered that we are missing several minutes from both board and general meeting minutes from

2014-16, and are missing several from 2017-18. We are supposed to keep these records according to our retention guidelines. If anyone has records of these minutes, please send them to Mary Gladney.

Mary explained that part of the search for minutes was related to needed clarity over financial records. The group has money placed into a community fund which was originally started due to concerns over where our organization would move if our arrangement at Ira Nelson changes as we do not currently pay rent. Changes and future planning are part of what the financial committee being formed will look into. As the information for our School Garden costs has just come in, we do not have final numbers for the year. Angela's budget will give clarity to our income and expenditures once it is completed.

She also mentioned the Ag Center would like to once again have a Master Gardener man a phone one day a week from March through May for Ask a Master Gardener.

Past President Juan Nieto asked for sign ups to volunteer for Festival de Fleur.

Vice President Bootsie Durand mentioned the new fundraiser being researched would be a speaker event with sponsors and vendors that is open to the public. The committee is made up of Bootsie, Gail Wakefield, Carolyn Wentworth, Cheryl Speight, Lynn Dubois, Mary Gladney, and Heather Warner-Finley.

Corresponding Secretary Meagan Stogsdill expressed her thanks for the wonderful job, Cindy Wiley did in 2022 sending out cards and asked for the membership to let Meagan know going forward if they knew of any cards needing to be sent out on behalf of the organization. She thanked everyone for sending in their forms. The membership discount cards will be printed this month. The deadline for completing hours has past, but forms and dues can still be turned in for those who completed and recorded their hours to be active.

The roster will be out by the end of the month. The 2023 committee lists will be filled out solely from the Committee Selection forms and the contact information of those who selected they were interested in committees will be sent to the committee chairs.

The LPMGA Facebook page is active again. There is now a LPMGA members group as well for members to join and share information, questions, photos, etc. The page also has your forms, newsletters, and copies of emails going out. The post about the group is pinned to the LPMGA Facebook page, and also searchable under 'Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners'. Names will be checked against the roster so if your name on Facebook does not match with your name on the roster, please contact Meagan Stogsdill.

Meagan also mentioned if anyone needs hours from home, we always need posts for our Facebook and Instagram pages. A photo or 100–200-word blurb, or even a long post is always welcome!

Angela Moles gave the treasurer's report. Beginning balance was \$38,989.17. We had a cleared balance of \$34,592.45. Ending balance for beginning of \$32,843.13. She also answered a question about the organization's CDs. She believes they went to the community fund. The balance was cash, not investments. The financial breakdown will all be included in the budget.

Theresa Guidry spoke about the project at Meredith's Place. The project was approved pre COVID with a budget of \$350 from LPMGA, and \$150 supplied by Meredith's Place. Meredith's Place is a residential community for pregnant women, or women with children under the age of five with no place to go. The project is to set up a container garden similar to the school garden program outside of the Educational Room at Meredith's Place, and teach the mothers and their children about gardening. Volunteers are needed to help both with setting up the garden, and with instruction. If you are interested email Theresa Guidry or Mary Kramer.

Member at Large Christine Devenport reminded the membership she is the liaison between the membership and the board and to reach out to her if you need anything.

Ag Agent Maddox Miller congratulated the 2022 class on their graduation. The SGI cook off will be held on February 4th. An email will come out with more information. Volunteers are welcome. The Louisiana State Horticultural Society meeting is 1/12 at Ira Nelson.

Mary mentioned the project with Channel 15 KADN has been approved by the board LSU. Mary Gladney, Cindy Walton, and Nancy Ann Rowe are on the committee.

Denise Files is working on a project regarding plants that survived the freeze. She would like to know:

- The plant name and or a photo
- Was it covered and if so, what was it covered with
- Was it sheltered or in the open

Example: * Vinca, no cover, semi open * English ivy, sheet, under a tree
Contact her at daylily1754@gmail.com or [337-277-8845](tel:337-277-8845) by April 30th.

Meagan Stogsdill reminded the membership that you count your mileage to the meetings in your CE time. For instance, if you drive thirty minutes straight to the meeting, plus the meeting is an hour, and you drive thirty minutes straight home your total CE for the January meeting is two hours. 30-minute drive to meeting + 60 minute meeting + 30 minute drive to home = 2 hours

Gail Wakefield said Peggy Taylor is looking into colors for the LPMGA shirts and options like dry weave fabric. Propagation will vote on the color.

Announcements:

Board Meeting – 1/ 1pm Ira Nelson

SGI Cookoff is 2/4.

Heather Warner Finley made a motion to adjourn. Meagan Stogsdill seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:28.

Minutes submitted by Meagan Stogsdill for Mary Kramer.