

LPMG General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, June 1, 2022
Southside Library

Our June meeting was called to order at 12:04. Juan Nieto led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mary Gladney introduced Charles Hebert as our speaker. Charles is an LSU Ag Agent in the Lafayette Parish office. He also took the master gardener class in 2009, and he heads up the School Garden Initiative in Lafayette Parish Schools. Through his Powerpoint presentation, Charles gave a comprehensive history of the Ag Center development in the U.S. He explained the 3 way association between the USDA, LSU, and the Lafayette Parish Government. Charles linked the many branches in Louisiana including the experimental stations, LSU College of Agriculture, Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service which includes 4-H youth development and Agricultural and Family Consumer Sciences. All 64 parishes in the state have an Ag Center office. Charles explained that we as MGs are an extension of the agents. LSU representatives always give research-based information. MGs are covered by insurance for any Sanctioned Events that have been approved by the MG board. Dr. Sara Shields, who visited us for the meeting, emphasized that reporting hours online is so important for this program to remain funded. These hours (and the money we save the state) is looked upon annually by the state before funding decisions are made. Charles continued by letting us know the School Garden Initiative is back. Nine schools have been interviewed. Also, the application period for taking the MG class is closed, but we have over 40 applications for the program. Stuart Gauthier has been helping out in taking phone calls until we get a new Ag Agent. Charles hopes we have a new agent by July 1 but doesn't know if that will happen.

Juan asked for a motion to approve May General Meeting minutes. Mary Gladney made a motion and Ellen Grote seconded. Minutes approved. Juan mentioned we are missing a few people. Don is moving, Dan has retired, and Ellen Garacci had surgery and may be out awhile. Juan received a Moncus Park Proposal that Mazie Movassaghi and Liz Hanes were instrumental in putting together. The proposal allows for MGs to be an educational service and serve as mentors for the care of plants that are being put in at the park. This will allow us a foot in the door at the park so we can educate the community.

Angela Moles reported we had \$31,605 in checking. Checks amounting to \$2592 and a deposit of \$918 from t-shirts and aprons have brought us to \$29,738.

Mary Gladney said co-chairs are still need for committees. If interested in co-chairing the newsletter, please speak with Mary. She says you can attend events, take pictures, and submit. Mary has a PC, not a MAC. Karen Trahan and Mary Ann Armbruster are doing some proofreading.

May Waggoner won the door prize. Meeting was adjourned around 1:15.

Announcements:

Board Meeting - Ira Nelson, June 21, 1 PM

General Meeting - August 3, noon, Southside Library

Minutes Submitted by Kathy Troyanowski