

LPMGA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Ira Nelson Horticulture Center

Tuesday, January 17, 2022/ 1:00PM

Call to Order: LPMGA President Mary Gladney called the Executive Board meeting to order at 1:04 PM.

Roll Call: 2023 Board:

Mary Gladney

Bootsie Durand

Juan Nieto

Angela Moles

Mary Kramer

Meagan Stogsdill

Louann McClelland-Long

Christine Davenport

Maddox Miller

Guests: Paul Manuel, John Hebert

Minutes of the December Board meeting were approved as submitted.

President's Report: Mary Gladney

In attempting to find all Board and General minutes from previous years, Mary reported that Babette Werner had sent copies of minutes from her file from 2014, 2015, and 3 months of minutes from 2016. Mary has most of 2017,2018,2019. Years 2020 are stored on MG website, and 2021 are in a paper file at the Ag office. Kathy Troyanowski will load the 2022 minutes on a jump drive to be stored at the Ag office. Beginning now, 2023, the Recording Secretary will save all minutes on a jump drive and send copies to Maddox Miller for Ag Center Cloud

and Yvonne Lanoux to save on the MG membership web page. If we can locate any additional prior minutes, we will attempt to save as a paper copy, or in the manner mentioned above. Our By-laws state the Recording Secretary is responsible for archiving all minutes. In addition, Mary Gladney is storing the Master Gardener Newsletter on a thumb drive to be given to her whoever takes over the newsletter.

Mary Ann Armbruster has volunteered to co-chair the newsletter with Mary this year.

Past President Report: Juan Nieto

Juan is stepping down as Chairman of Ask-A-Master Gardener and the Speakers Bureau. He is asking for volunteers to Chair and co-chair these committees. Please contact Juan or Mary Gladney if interested.

Juan also discussed the upcoming pine straw sale. John Hebert will serve as Fall sale Chairman. They are looking at possible vendors in both Louisiana and Mississippi. Although the bales were larger and more expensive this last sale, the MGs did not clear enough profit to cover pine straw costs for Propagation and SGI, as in past years.

Vice- President's Report:

Bootsie met with her Program (fundraising committee) They are; Mary Gladney, Heather Warner-Finley, Gail Wakefield, Lynn Dubois, Carolyn Wentworth, and Cheryl Speight. They have proposed a ½ day program, open to the public. It will feature one main speaker, Allen Owings, and 3 breakout sessions. The date is set for Saturday, May 20th, 2023. The committee is looking for a place to host the event, and possibly serve lunch. The cost is yet to be determined, but suggesting between \$ 40-45 per person. They will next meet on January 25th.

Megan suggested some ways to publicize the event. In addition to the LPMG Face Book and website, she mentioned the LSU Ag site and other MG sites, and possible Ads. Discussion was held about using a registration site, such as Eventbrite, for ease and convenience in registering.

Treasurer's Report: Angela Moles

Angela reported that she is working on the budget and hopes to get it out during the first quarter. Mary Gladney stated that the last copy on file was 2017-18. Juan stated that budgets were prepared to send to the state office, but were not printed for membership. He will check his files for copies. Juan also said that the only changes in the budget these last 2 years was additional funding for propagation due to much needed repairs on the buildings.

Recording Secretary's Report: Mary Kramer

Mary asked for permission to post both the General Membership and the Board minutes on the MG email (Board minutes were recently sent only to the MG web). Lou Ann stated that this had been done in past years, and that the monthly Treasurer's report was sent as well.

Board members were asked to read the e-mail of the minutes from the General Membership and Executive Board and to respond with approval, corrections, and additions within one week to help with timely distribution to the members.

Membership Coordinator: Louann McClelland- Long

Louann stated that no members reported problems logging in hours last month. She will be sending an annual summary of the LPMG hours to the newsletter and LSU Ag for 2022.

The Handbook Committee will be asked for final review and changes in early February and hopefully the updated handbook will be available to the members in May or June. The handbook will be available on the MG website for all members and MG class. It has become too expensive to update and reprint on paper. Bootsie stated that she felt it is important for the new members to read and familiarize themselves with the policies and the forms that need to be used when reporting.

In the last few years, possibly due to COVID or due to a lack of understanding, many chairmen have not used the reporting forms to report the work being done by various committees. Discussion was held on what has been, or could be done to allow the chairmen to report and share information. In the past, each Chairman kept a notebook to hand off at the December meeting to help the incoming chairman to continue the progress.

Corresponding Secretary: Meagan Stogsdill

Meagan still has not received some Code of Conduct forms but she plans to send the updated roster out on January 31st. Vendor discount cards are being printed this week. Members should note that some vendor discounts have changed.

The MG Facebook “Members Only “page now has 60 members and the MG YouTube channel has good engagement. The videos can be watched to meet educational hours.

Member At Large: Christine Devenport (No Report)

Christine did note that the dates for the Southern Garden Symposium in St. Francisville, LA are October 20-21,2023.

LSU AgCenter: Maddox Miller

Maddox reminded us of the MOU with ULL in setting dates for our activities at Ira Nelson for approval, to avoid conflict with ULL activities, such as the Spring pine straw sale.

The tentative date for MG volunteers to man the phones at the AG office for “Ask A Master Gardener,” during the time Maddox works in other parishes, is March 1-May 31st. It will be ½ day per week and the day is still being decided. Maddox is working on a Microsoft form for MGs to sign up for the designated days and hours. He is asking for 2 people at a time. Louann asked about reporting these volunteer hours as “Extension Activities.” Maddox approved. Louann also asked about the possibility of having the calls forwarded to the MGs homes for convenience and to avoid having to go to the office and pay for parking. Maddox said that he will check into that. Also, when Maddox is out of the office his parking place may be used by one volunteer.

He also said the Sara Shields (LSU Ag) would like a quarterly list of events of LPMGA. This is to insure that “sanctioned events” (events approved by the board and LSU Ag) are listed. As in the past, events must be approved by both LPMGA and LSU Ag to be covered under insurance. Juan stated that the event approval from LSU Ag is only done twice a year.

Maddox is also working with Sara Shields to check credentials for a MG who is transferring from Texas and moving into the area.

School Garden Initiative Cook Off is scheduled for Saturday February 4, 2023. Volunteers will be needed for Friday afternoon to set up, and for Saturday morning and early afternoon. He brought posters for Board members to distribute to help publicize the event.

Committee Reports:

Meredith's Place: Initial Garden setup is planned for Wednesday, February 15th. Volunteers are needed to spread and secure weed cloth, place 8 raised black pots, to fill with soil for Spring planting in March. Those interested in Volunteering should contact Theresa Guidry or Mary Kramer.

Old Business:

Meagan asked that we please use her MG email, instead of her personal email when contacting her. It is imgmeagan@gmail.com

New Business:

Mary Gladney is trying to set up a meeting with Al Hebert at Channel 15 to further discuss the landscaping project.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32PM

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Kramer

LPMGA Recording Secretary