

LPMGA General Membership Meeting  
Wednesday, March 2, 2022  
Southside Library

Our March meeting was called to order at 12:02. Our president, Juan Nieto, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mary Gladney introduced the speaker, Louann Long.

Louann helped the membership understand and navigate the recording of volunteer hours. Beginning with individual contacts, it was noted that you are the individual and you should record how many people you have contacted personally. If your contact is with another MG who is reporting his own volunteer service, do not record this. Recording contacts does not effect recording your volunteer hours. For mass contacts, only chairs count these hours. For example, the person in overall charge of the plant sale will record mass contacts. People working at the sale can record individual contacts. It is ok to put zero in the contact box, and it is ok to guesstimate how many people you reached. It is also ok to click the Not Applicable box for your project if you aren't sure which category to use. Round up your hours to the nearest one quarter hour: .25, .50, .75. When finished, make sure you click "Save", and after you receive the screen message thanking you for successfully recording your hours, click "Log Out" in the upper right corner. Major categories were examined next. Continuing Ed is the category to use when learning things. The next category of Volunteer Service with Continuing Ed listed as a sub-category is used if you are preparing to give a talk. Louann suggested that you check all of your contact information annually to make sure everything is up to date. Regarding activities that can be claimed as hours, only those activities approved by the LPMGA Board and included on the LSU insurance list can be submitted. A list of approved activities is on our website and in our Handbook. Gardening shows on TV can be counted as education if the show is pertinent to gardening in this area. For example, Queens Garden of England and Central Texas gardening may have elements of plant growth and conservation that can apply to our gardening here. Louann requested that members read their email and newsletter to keep current. Also, Louann (phone 501-7998/email [mglouann@gmail.com](mailto:mglouann@gmail.com)) encourages members to contact her with any questions or issues about the recording of hours, setting a new password or any other questions about earning or recording hours.

Louann reminded everyone that currently 20 hours of volunteer service, 6 education hours, paid dues (there will be a late fee of \$5 for late dues), and code of conduct forms are needed every year to remain an Active member.

Juan asked for a motion to approve February minutes. Minutes approved. Don Weintritt (immediate past president) continued on to give a thorough rundown on our past convention and the possibility of a new state convention next year. Our last state conference was in 2007. It cost twenty thousand. Today a convention of this magnitude would cost more. Don presented an alternative idea. A convention of a day and a half with speakers and demonstrations is possible. Other chapters in the state may be interested in working with us. We have a possible free venue in Alexandria which is a nice central location in the state. He suggested November of next year since we will largely be out of hurricane season. Don will send out an online voting poll to see if people want this and are willing to serve on committees to make it work. When asked about the past 2007 convention, MaryAnn Armbruster illuminated us. There were 3 days of lectures, demos, and tours. Many committees were involved as well as sponsors. Behind the scenes activities also occurred such as bags being put together with goodies to give to the attendees.

Juan gave the financial figures from Angela. On January 31, there was 30,000 in checking. After expenses paid, checking is currently at 27,500. A CD has 17,000. All figures are rounded. Angela will be at a meeting soon to give a workup on our finances.

Corresponding Secretary Ellen Garacci said a card was sent to Becky Taylor whose husband died recently. For Festival Des Fleurs, Ellen says she needs more people in the children's activities, so she will ask permission from the signees to switch a few to this group. Ellen said we are getting 3 members back, and she has the festival schedule.

LSU Agent Dan Devenport said that members are still going through security background checks. He submits 35 names at a time. Sara Shields will send an email to you for a background check. These are good for 3 years.

Chuck Schrader reported on his work with LARC at Acadian Village. Currently, Chuck's committee is working with Intellectually and/or physically handicapped adults in a vegetable garden. He says not only are they growing vegetables, but they are growing self-esteem. It is very rewarding work to see the adults understand how the vegetables are grown. The adults have real ownership in the garden, are very proud of their accomplishments, and take pride in how the garden looks.

Gail Wakefield said t-shirt orders are due by Friday.

Pam Womack discussed the spring social occurring on May 4. She is still looking for a place to hold the event. If you are interested in volunteering your home, please let her know. St. Julien Park in Broussard also has space with a pavilion. Boxed meals will be available for purchase, spouses are welcome, and time is 5:30 or 6.

MaryAnn Armbruster mentioned the upcoming activities at the Healer's Garden. There will be powerpoints, demonstrations, workshops as well as free lunch. See the newsletter for details.

Chuck won the door prize.

Announcements: Lynn Dubois said the poster flyers for FDF are in. If you are interested in posting one somewhere, you can pick one up from her next Wednesday at propagation.

Board Meeting will be at Ira Nelson Library on March 15, 1 PM.

General Meeting will be April 6, Southside Library, noon.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:34 PM.

Minutes submitted by Kathy Troyanowski