

PATHWAYS

WINTER 2018—2019

PHOTO BY ED HUDSON, ST CLAIR CO

LOOK WHAT'S

INSIDE

- PAGE 2 ADVISORY COUNCIL
 AMGA MEMBERSHIP
 AMGA AWARDS
- PAGE 3 AMGA COMMUNICATIONS
 AMGA ENDOWMENT
 AMGA EDITOR
- PAGE 4 AMGA RECORDS AND
 RETENTION
 AMGA PROJECT FUNDING
 AMGA TREASURER
- PAGE 5-6 AMGA NOMINATING
 COMMITTEE
- PAGE 7 STATE MG PROGRAM
 CORDINATOR

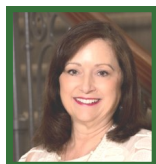


AMGA Website
alabamamg.org



AMGA PRESIDENT

Catharine Maddox (Cathy)



May Blessings and Good Will abound in 2019!

As we emerge from the fun, fellowship and food of a marvelous Christmas and Holiday Season, we may be a bit heavier, but hopefully, each of us enjoyed a special new memory to take with us into 2019. Our focus changes now and sharpens into welcoming a new year, planning for our lawns and gardens, and completing conference organization. These cold winter months offer us as gardeners opportunities and time to take stock of our plantings, tools, garden designs, and generally, to prepare ourselves for the busy months to come.

As you make your plans for the coming year, be sure that you mark your calendars to register and attend the 2019 Alabama Master Gardeners Association Annual Conference in

Clanton on May 8, 9, and 10, 2019. The theme for this conference, which is co-hosted by Chilton, Shelby, and Autauga County MGAs, is *Party in the Garden*. An exciting agenda has been planned with excellent educational options, as well as an interesting new variation on the arrangements for classes and meals, including a Hoe Down. Since one of the main events of the Conference is the Annual Business Meeting, be sure to be present for that and cast your vote for the new slate of officers for the 2019-2021 term. Information on the nominees is in this issue so you can become familiar with the excellent qualifications each of them holds.

Thank you for all the outstanding volunteer work you contributed as Master Gardeners during 2018. I look forward to another great year for all of us, making our communities better through gardening.

Happy Gardening!



AMGA VICE-PRESIDENT

Michael Thomason

From the office of the vice-president, Happy New Year to everyone! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year.

It is that time of the year when we sit around the fire dreaming of our spring gardens, thumbing through our seed catalogs and ordering our favorite seeds.

Also, I hope by now you have registered for the Annual Conference, *PARTY IN THE GARDEN* slated for May 8-10 at the Clanton Performing Arts Center in Clanton. Chilton County is hosting along with Co-hosts Autauga and Shelby Counties. They have worked extremely hard over the past year in preparation for this event. They have some jam-packed sessions lined up. So, don't miss the 2019 AMGA Annual Conference.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ann Scharko

The November Advisory Council meeting was held by email due to the threat of bad weather and rescheduling conflicts. Therefore, the only report I have is that there is a new slate of officers for 2019. By unanimous votes per email from a majority of local

Master Gardener Associations, the new officers are Rita Forrest, Chair; Ann Scharko, Vice Chair; and Elouisa Stokes, Secretary.

I want to thank everyone for their support and patience with me as I served as Chair these past two years. I hope all had a very Merry Christmas, and may the New Year bring bigger and better things. See you in 2019.

AMGA MEMBERSHIP

Mary Howe

AMGA finished 2018 with a paid and lifetime membership of 1,988. Several discrepancies existed between membership dues submitted to the Treasurer and the Dues Tracker postings so that the actual count may differ from the reported total. Dues collection for 2019 should be about complete, and the dues payments need to be posted in the Dues Tracker database when payments are sent to the AMGA Treasurer. Each association should have at least one individual with access to the Dues Tracker (and preferably at least one alternate administrator). If

your association does not have a Dues Tracker administrator or needs to make a change in the individuals with access, please let me know at amgamembership@gmail.com or by telephone at 256-534-4773. Also please let me know if you have a membership question or need assistance with the Dues Tracker database. Because of the cancellation of the on-site Advisory Council meeting in November, I still have 2019 membership cards for several associations. If your association has not received membership cards for 2019, please provide a name and address for mailing to the email address above and I will send them.

AMGA AWARDS

Devonne Ellis

2019 AMGA Conference will be here before you know it. The awards will be presented in Clanton, May 8-10, 2019. All associations are encouraged to submit award nominations by the deadline – January 31, 2019.

Order forms for both Reach for the Stars and Advanced Badges and Stars Awards may be found by going to alabamamg.org, looking under “AMGA Publications and Forms,” and clicking on “AMGA Forms.” Select and print the forms needed. Instructions are on the forms. Checks should be made out to AMGA and submitted to the Reach for the Stars Chair with the order form. Please do not send checks to the AMGA Treasurer.

Information and instructions for the other award nominations are found on the same website, alabamamg.org, again under “AMGA Publications and Forms.” To see the requirements for submission, select “AMGA Awards and Criteria.” Each award is listed

separately with its unique instructions. Please follow those instructions.

A change in the Outstanding Newsletter Award was instituted last year. There are three categories: 1) Associations with up to thirty-two (32) AMGA members, 2) associations with thirty-three (33) to fifty-nine (59) AMGA members, and 3) Sixty (60) and above AMGA members. All associations are encouraged to make submissions in the appropriate category. If your association has previously won this award, you must wait three years before your next submission. Newsletters to be judged will be May and October.

One important note to remember – all nominees for AMGA awards, except for the Gary Murray Outstanding Service Award honoring Non-Master Gardeners, must be current AMGA members in good standing.

Please help AMGA reward its most deserving members! Contact Devonne Ellis, devoellis@msn.com, 205-739-9865 with any questions.

AMGA COMMUNICATION CHAIR

Frieda Romanchuk

January gifts for Project and Program Chairmen: read and research! At your fingertips are the Website and, via the Website, *Pathways*. The Website heading, LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS, offers links to all Alabama LMGAs; many of these have an online presence using their own website or using ACES website. Many link directly to FACEBOOK as well. Current projects, programs, speakers, field trips – there are a lot of current and coming happenings posted on LMGA websites and FACEBOOK pages. You may get ideas which stimulate thoughts. Sometimes there are names of an individual project or program coordinator who could be contacted to exchange ideas and get some advice. If you want to contact someone from another local association, ask your State Advisory Council representative for the contact information for that association to start the ball rolling. Another great

source is to look up the state MG programs in other states. Program and project suggestions are again plentiful, and links to LMGA programs in those states often are available.

Don't like to search the web? If you're like me, one topic will lead to a 'rabbit hole' that is so totally unrelated, but down it, you go! Climb out of that 'rabbit hole' by means of the quarterly *Pathways* Happenings and with a pen and paper handy, just start with Autauga County and scroll down through to the Wiregrass, you will see what other AMGAs in the state are up to with projects, programs, seminars, plant sales, etc. There is never a reason to say "We've run out of program ideas" or "We use the same speakers over and over" or "What project can be initiated that is new?"

Pathways and the AMGA website, alabamamg.org, have plenty of thoughtful and proven 'gifts.'

Please address all questions or comments about *Pathways* or the AMGA website to amgacommunications@gmail.com.

AMGA ENDOWMENT

Karin Carmichael

Donations to the Auburn University Graduate Award Endowment are reported from one AMGA Conference to the next. Since May 2018, the following LMGAs have contributed a total of \$7,665.15 (which includes a \$790.95 contribution from the AMGA Fall Seminar proceeds): Autauga County, Central Alabama, DeKalb County, Marshall County, Coffee County, Walker County, Shoals, Chilton County, Master Gardeners of North Alabama and Wiregrass. Checks for the

Endowment should be made out to AMGA and sent to Jim Whitson at 729 Amador Avenue, Fairhope, Alabama 36532. Please include an address to which the Auburn Foundation can send a Thank You letter. If I have made any mistakes or omissions, let me know, and I will correct the record. We will announce the four undergraduate recipients and the one graduate recipient for the 2018-2019 school year at the May 2019 AMGA Conference being held in Clanton. These scholarships and awards are very important to, and much appreciated by the Horticulture students at Auburn University who receive them.

AMGA NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Patricia Peoples

WOW – I don't know where the time goes, do you? I am looking forward to the annual conference, *Party in the Garden*, in Clanton this spring. I love the comradeship of the conferences and seminars, especially getting to see old friends that we have met before from other functions. I'm excited for the New Year to get to meet and work with the new officers.

A little housekeeping is in order. I appreciate every county working with me to strive to get an article in each quarter. Making sure the County or Association name appears in the subject line would help immensely. When I receive articles, I file them in a folder, and a great many of them are sent to me

labeled winter 2018, 2018 *Pathways*, similar titles. This causes confusion when I try to find a specific article. So please, in the subject line of the email you are sending me, put your county as the subject. That will make my job easier.

Most counties are sending information to share with others, and I appreciate this. It makes for a more interesting publication. It takes all of us working together to create an excellent newsletter.

I am on the look-out for unique articles for *Pathways*. If you would like to submit an essay on something that you have researched and feel that other Master Gardeners would benefit from your study, please send it to me for consideration. You would need to limit the article to 300-350 words.

AMGA RECORDS AND RETENTION

Michael Thomason

The committee continues to focus on four boxes of Financial records. We are separating them by year and taking a hard look at those more than seven years old. If there is any documentation older than seven years, that needs to be maintained for historical preservation; then we would certainly archive it.

We plan to have a review of the financial

records completed by the end of spring and submit documents to the digital archiving company with archiving completed by mid-summer.

We have purchased an additional external hard drive and have begun to archive documents as a back up to the first hard drive as a precautionary measure.

If you have or know of any items that need to be archived, please notify me, and we can plan to obtain them for review and archive.

AMGA PROJECT FUNDING

Jim Allen

Myra Lassere of Baldwin County Master Gardeners Association, Sondra Henley of Chilton County Master Gardeners Association and Phil Gatlin of Cullman County Master Gardeners Association have graciously agreed to work with me on the Project Funding Committee.

As of November 29, 2018, the Project Funding committee has received no applications for grants. The deadline for submission of applications is January 15, 2019, which leaves plenty of time for applications to be completed and submitted. To see Program rules, evaluation criteria, and application forms, visit the AMGA website at <http://alabamamg.org/>, scroll down

to the tab AMGA Publications and Forms (right side of the page), click on Forms, and then Project Funding Grant Application. An Association may receive funding for only one approved project within a three-year period.

Email your applications to the AMGA Project Funding Chairman, Jim Allen at jima@alafarm.com. If you have any questions about the Program, please contact Jim at the above email address or 256-308-1605. If I do not answer the phone, please leave a message; I travel a good bit.

In 2018, Autauga County was awarded \$1,775, Cherokee County \$1,000, and Chilton County \$2,500 for a total of \$5,275. A total of \$7,500 is available for 2019. Please do not leave this money sitting on the table!

AMGA TREASURER

Jim Whitson

As we approach the end of 2018, your association is in a strong financial position. AMGA's fund balances on deposit at Regions bank exceed \$105,000, and we have no outstanding liabilities at this time.

Funds provided by local MGAs have enabled AMGA to contribute, on their behalf, over \$7,500 to the Auburn Graduate Endowment Fund.

Starting in 2019 the "books" of AMGA will be moved to QuickBooks Online. There are several reasons for this, the primary being that the treasurer and assistant treasurer must be able to access the accounts. That simply cannot be accomplished if the records are stored on a single computer as they exist now. Additionally, during the conversion process, the accounts of AMGA will be streamlined and simplified

for better reporting relative to budgeting going forward.

Like AMGA, many County Master Gardener Associations' bylaws require, or certainly should require, an annual review of the treasury activities or an "audit." The analysis is most useful if done by someone outside of the local organization. I encourage all county chapters to have an annual review performed. A question that has arisen recently is "should the treasurers be bonded?" I would encourage each association to at least visit this question and make a sound business decision regarding this issue.

It is time to remit annual dues for 2019. Please note that the mailing address for the local association treasurer to send dues is: AMGA, 729 Amador Avenue, Fairhope, AL 36532.

SAVE THE DATE

2020 March 30- April 1
Mobile, Alabama
2020 Annual Conference

2020 AMGA CONFERENCE



COME SEE US!

Designed by Marian Watts

2018 AMGA NOMINATING COMMITTEE — FLETCHER HARVERY, JIM HARRIS, AND PAULA SEAMON

is pleased to present the following slate of officers for consideration at the 2019 AMGA Annual Conference in Clanton.

Michael Thomason; Shoals, President
Myra Lassere; Baldwin County, VP
Sherilyn Osborne; Blount County, Secretary
Pat Cosgrove; Jefferson County, Treasurer

Katherine Musso; Jefferson County, Nominating Committee
Jim Allen; Morgan County, Board Member At Large
Sue Khoury; Master Gardeners North Alabama Board
Member At Large

MICHAEL THOMASON-SHOALS, PRESIDENT



Michael was raised in Cherokee, Alabama, located in Colbert County. He now resides in Muscle Shoals. Michael began his career as a construction Boilermaker, completing his apprenticeship in August 1978. In December of 1981 he received his BS degree in Mechanical Engineering from The University of Alabama. After a thirty-year career as a Mechanical Engineer with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Michael retired in June 2012. In the spring of 2013 he

pursued his passion of gardening as he was certified as a Master Gardener Michael has received invitations from several organizations to make presentations promoting the Master Gardener program. Among those are the Rotary Club and Florence Tourism board. He has conducted the intern Helpline Class, served on the AMGA Board as an At Large Board Member, Chairman of Records and Retention, and is a member of the State Conference Committee.

MYRA LASSERE-BALDWIN CO, VICE PRESIDENT



Myra Lassere’s roles in BCMG have included Coordinator of Hospitality 2011 and 2012, Vice-President 2013, President 2015, volunteer at the 2014 State Conference and current Advisory Council alternate rep. She was the BCMG 2014 Fall Seminar Chairperson and is Project Coordinator for South Baldwin Center of Technology Greenhouse,

volunteering there since 2010. Her list of skills includes computer, writing, speaking, financial, editor, grant writing, fundraising, beautification, and leadership. Myra taught classes on Organic Gardening and Pets & Poisonous Plants for BCMG. She’s written articles for BCMG Grassroots, AMGA Garden Pathways and the Volunteer Ops Bulletin.

SHERILYN OSBORNE - BLOUNT COUNTY, SECRETARY



Sherilyn Osborne has been a mainstay of the Blount County Master Gardeners since 2002. She has served in just about every capacity...Treasurer, Membership Chair, Vice President/Program Chair and President. She organized the Blount County Master Gardener Event in 2010 and has served as Chair for this successful annual event ever since. She has coordinated plant sales, assisted with Master Gardener classes and has supervised volunteers at several

community events.

She served as Co-Chair of the 2015 AMGA Conference and has been an Advisory Council Representative since 2010. She served as Vice Chair for three years and AC Secretary for one.

She was awarded her Platinum Badge in 2010 and proudly wears it with her Ruby Star (2016) and her Emerald Star (2018). She also received her Water Smart Advanced Certification in 2010 and her Native Plants Advanced Certification in 2012.

PATRICIA C. COSGROVE - JEFFERSON CO, SECRETARY



Patricia C. Cosgrove (Pat) resides in Mountain Brook, Alabama. She was certified as a Master Gardener in 2012 and is a member of Jefferson County Master Gardeners Association. Pat served as President in 2016 for the Camellia Society. She received her Platinum Badge in 2013, her Ruby Star

award in 2016, and awarded a Lifetime Membership to AMGA in 2017. She can be seen behind the scenes decorating tables for JCMGA, working plant information booths at various events, and supplying and arranging the Auction Baskets for the Annual meetings. Pat trains the Interns for GPIC

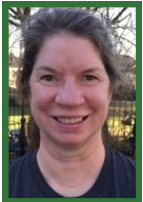
PATRICIA C. COSGROVE - JEFFERSON CO, SECRETARY

Continued from page 5

service. Her personal skills include having worked for a Glass Contract Company for 56 years serving as the CFO and Vice President of Finance. In 1985 she was selected as President of Executive Woman International Birmingham.

In her spare time after working with the JCMGA Conference team Pat manages to refinish furniture, does upholstery, frames pictures, oil painting, sewing and the talent list goes on.

KATHERINE MUSSO - JEFFERSON CO, NOMINATING COMMITTEE



Kate Musso is a graduate of the 2017 Jefferson County Master Gardener class. She is also a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School. After retiring from the private practice of regulatory compliance law, she happily traded the code of federal regulations for heirloom vegetables

and antique roses. Kate serves as the treasurer for the Jefferson County Master Gardener Association and acts as one of the association’s volunteer coordinators. Her gardening articles appear occasionally in The Alabama Gardener and Portico magazine. She and her husband live in Homewood with three rescue dogs and a very independent cat.

JIM ALLEN - MORGAN COUNTY , BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE



Jim Allen is Vice President of Morgan County Master Gardeners Association, and former President. He co-chaired the fall MCMGA horticulture exhibition. He’s served as MCMGA representative on the Advisory Council. Other roles include Vice President of public relations at Alabama Farmers’ Cooperative, Editor of The Cooperative Farming News, and Co-Host and Field Reporter for the TV show “Simply Southern.” He is a member of the Decatur Rotary Club, Vice Chair/Board member Morgan County/Decatur Farmers Market, Advisory member AL Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, Board member Alabama People Against Litter in My State,

Board member, and Past President Alabama Council of Cooperatives, Board member of Alabama Future Farmers of America Foundation, Alabama’s Farm City Council, Alabama Agribusiness Council, and Auburn Agriculture Partnership Council. Jim represented AFC at the 2014 AMGA conference in Baldwin County. He’s won various AG industry awards. He has spoken on succulents and tropicals he grows. He collates gardening to do lists for specific USDA zones. Jim has given garden tours answering gardening questions, explaining techniques, demonstrates hand tools, shares his composting techniques and French double digging method of gardening. He was certified in 2009.

SUE KHOURY - MASTER GARDENERS OF NORTH ALABAMA, BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE



Sue moved to Alabama in 1995 from New Hampshire to work on a new weapons system development program. She and her husband Jim live in Harvest (a suburb of Huntsville) with their four rescue dogs.

She retired from her position as Senior Manager, Integrated Supply Chain for Raytheon Company in 2011. In that role she was responsible for all subcontracting, procurement, production and inventory control, logistics, and small business initiatives for the Huntsville operations. Because of her leadership role she is well versed in all common computer applications.

Since joining MGNA in 2014 Sue has served as Vice President and currently serves on the Board of Directors. She also co-chairs the Communications

Committee, has served three years as Publicity Chair, and continues to serve as Social Media Chair and email distribution manager. She also chairs the Habitat for Humanity Landscape Installation project, the First Stop Gardening Program, and MGNA’s annual Plant Sale. In 2018 she received the MGNA Master Gardener of the Year Award.

Sue also volunteers for Madison Animal Rescue Foundation. In addition to fostering dogs and puppies, she designs their publicity flyers and plans and executes the silent auction for their annual fundraiser.

In their “spare” time Jim and Sue enjoy traveling. They’ve visited 27 countries and countless Caribbean islands, and have future cruises booked to Norway and Asia.

From The State MG Program Coordinator



Ambassadors for Extension

Washington State University Cooperative Extension started the MG Program in 1971 with this purpose – foster a crew of Extension ambassadors who would expand their educational programs. Since then Extension in other states adopted the program for this same reason. Then and now, we need your help.

Last year, Alabama MG volunteers made 2.5 M public contacts through educational outreach. That was 2.5M opportunities to promote our “Extension” partnership and a huge brag point to an Extension Administrator. Did we remember to say it? Every time you mention our Extension-MG partnership, you raise the value of our program. Don’t take this for granted.

The point? I shouldn’t make any assumptions. Do you see yourself as an Extension ambassador?

Here’s a little story.

A story of four people – Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done, and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, thinking it was Everybody’s job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn’t do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

It’s an easy assumption – We expect that something of value will remain constant. In reality, every day holds a chance for innocuous distractions, not to mention the ordinary life events that create change. Maintaining the MG Program is no different. It has to be a team effort, a team of energetic players all focused on a lasting Extension network. Neglecting to promote our own pride in this Extension-MG relationship diminishes the value of our amazing program.

These are just a few examples of strong Extension ambassadors from 2018.

An MG flier stating, “... A workshop presented by the _____ Master Gardeners in support of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.”

Sharing Extension materials at: Ask an MG tables – County Fair displays – Lunch & Learn, and other community workshops

Sharing Extension knowledge: demonstration gardens – teaching a Habitat for Humanity homeowner how to care for a new landscape – teaching a 3rd-grader about compost

Building community with Extension knowledge: giving a green plant to a Hospice patient – teaching a cancer survivor how to grow vegetables – donating fresh produce to a food pantry

And many more!

Master Gardener is a remarkable program. As we start a new year, I hope you are as proud of our Extension-MG partnership as I am. We need your help to ensure our future.

Thank you for everything you do to support Extension and Master Gardeners in Alabama.

Kerry

334-844-3036

smithkp@auburn.edu



Reminders

Reading this BEFORE January ends? Did your local MGA forget to send in the *Annual Survey of Local Master Gardener associations*? Please send it now. It strengthens our Annual MG Report.

The next issue of Volunteer Opp’s Bulletin is February 2019. Your deadline for sending stories and photo’s is January 20, 2019.

Pathways

WINTER

2018—2019



Alabama Master Gardeners Association

alabamamg.org

Editor: Patricia Peoples
St. Clair CO. MGA
H: 205-467-0281
amganewsletter@gmail.com

Copy Editor:
Patricia Patty
Calhoun CO MGA

Proofreader:
Carolyn Wade—MGNA



State Advisor

Kerry Smith

State Master Gardeners

Program Coordinator

334-844-3036

Cell 334-329-1051

smithkp@auburn.edu

Got Questions



We've Got Answers

aces.edu/questions



SPRING PATHWAYS DUE MARCH 15 2019

EXECUTIVE BOARD TERMS 2017-2019

PRESIDENT: Catharine (Cathy) Maddox,
Capital City

VICE-PRESIDENT: Michael Thomason,
Shoals

SECRETARY: Rose McCauley, Autauga

TREASURER: James Whitson, Baldwin

ASSISTANT TREASURER: Pat Cosgrove,
Jefferson

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

TERM 2017-2020

Devonne Ellis, Wiregrass

Mary Howe, Master Gardeners of North
Alabama

TERM 2017-2019

Jim Allen, Morgan (Appointed)

Frieda Romanchuk, Baldwin (Appointed)

TERM 2018-2021

Pat Cosgrove, Jefferson

Tillie Morgan, Cherokee

Paula Seamon, Autauga

AMGA COMMITTEE CHAIRS and APPOINTEES

ADVISORY COUNCIL

CHAIR: Ann Scharko, East Central

ASSISTANT SECRETARY: Pat Cosgrove

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

(Elected Members) **TERM 2017-2019**

Chair, Harvey Fletcher, Jefferson

Jim Harris, St Clair

Paula Seamon, Autauga (Appointed)

AWARDS COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Devonne Ellis, Wiregrass

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Frieda Romanchuk, Baldwin

AMGA PATHWAYS Editor:

Patricia Peoples, St Clair

AMGA WEBMASTER: Rita Forrest, Shelby

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

2019 Chilton Co MGA

Pat Farmer & Sondra Henley

2020 Mobile Co MGA

Rene' Reibling & Judy Stout

2021 Calhoun Co MGA

Skeeter Sims & Dick Pritchett

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: Karin Carmichael, Capital City

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Ann Vaughn, Morgan

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Mary Howe

Master Gardeners of North Alabama

PROJECT FUNDING COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Jim Allen, Morgan

RECORDS & RETENTION COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Michael Thomason, Shoals

STATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Michael Thomason, Shoals

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Kerry Smith State MG Program